

Willits in Transition Workshop Notes

Complete set of Workshop Breakout Session Notes:

1. Eco-town/Green City Mapping,
2. Regional Rail,
3. Education and Outreach

1. Green City Mapping Breakout Session. Notes submitted by Margie Handley

ECO-TOWN MAPPING

Identification of pockets of development:

1. Main Street between Commercial and Valley (Country Mall)
2. North South corridor between Commercial & Valley on Lenore (County Office Building, Museum, Library, Recreation Grove)
3. Safeway – Highway 20
4. Evergreen Shopping Center (Senior Housing Project) (Mobile Home Park)
5. E. Hill Road/Baechtel Road - New hospital Site – New Subdivision – Community Garden, Senior Center, Microphor, Metal FX, Drip Works, PG & E, MCI Shell Lane Industrial businesses
6. White Bird Village (Proposed) High School, City Park, City Offices Art Center, Theatre
7. Locust Street Area – Future development, but must be annexed to City

Transportation Linkages:

Trolley, Railroad, Bus, Shared Pedestrian Right of Way

Consider support for a two lane bypass to mitigate shortages of funds

Community gardens:

Brookside School

New Hospital Site

Nature Areas:

Reynolds Highway
Mill Creek
Broaddus Creek
Baechtel Creek
Haehl Creek
Muir Mill Road area

Other Comments:

High School has the potential to educate to bring nature back to the City

Protect views of the East side mountains

Consider Roof top gardens

Area behind Safeway could be developed once the bridge is re-built.

Can we tie car free contract ordinances to new development

Higher density should be balanced with natural areas

We should address White Bird Village development issues because it lends itself to re-development and is on the table right now.

Mariposa Market – possible anchor store
Can mitigate parking concerns by moving parking off-site
Railroad could lend itself to light rail to connect to South end development and points between.



2. Willits in Transition (WIT) workshop notes, Rail Regional Vision Breakout Session, Kirstin Miller, facilitator

3/18/06

Rail Regional Vision

Needs

1. Need to fund North Coast Rail
2. Need support from urban areas (all cities along the main line and short lines)
3. Need to explore requesting Federal preemption (need to form a Task Force to study how to proceed)
4. Need to get Willits City Council to review the transportation funding priorities
5. Need to develop the economy that would support the rail infrastructure

Ideas:

1. Impose a gas tax, like they do in Europe, to finance rail
2. "Roads to Rail" ballot initiatives
3. Form a Task Force to focus on regional rail

*I am calling this new task force the Northern California Rail Initiative (NCRI) Task Force for now, just easier and is not official

Actions to be taken:

1. NCRI Task Force forming. 1st meeting is Thursday, March 23, 6:00pm at the REDI house, 121 West Commercial Street, Willits.
2. NCRI email discussion list is forming. Need moderator.
3. REDI will "incubate" the NCRI as it gets grounded and an action plan is formed
4. NCRI stakeholders need to be identified and contacted: likely partners include the Humboldt Bay Port, Port of Oakland, WELL, REDI, MTA, Fort Bragg, Sierra Rail Road, City of Willits, City of Ukiah, SMART? Others?
5. A NCRI "Summit" meeting should be planned, perhaps hosted in Willits?
6. An analysis needs to be done of the Main Line, Short Lines and Feeders to the Mainline from Brooktrails and inside Willits
7. Work should be coordinated with the Willits Green City Mapping Task Force to map out a proposed rail shuttle looping around the City of Willits and linking to the Skunk Train, Main Line and taking advantage of the Rail Open Air Museum and other historic rail economy of Willits
8. A plan should be discussed to request that Caltrans' Willits Bypass EIR should be mitigated by helping Willits establish intercity rail loop

9. Previous regional rail implementation plans need to be reviewed and updated
10. Federal preemption measures may need to be requested in order to ensure regional rail revival in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties

Notes are from the workshop, *Willits in Transition, Building a Sustainable Tomorrow, Today*, with Richard Register and Kirstin Miller of Ecocity Builders. Sponsors: City of Willits, Willits Economic Localization (WELL), NCO Community Action, Willits Action Group, Renewable Energy Development Institute, (R.E.D.I.) Economic Development and Financing Corporation, Mendocino County Railway Society, (MCRS). Notes submitted by Kirstin Miller, Ecocity Builders, Kirstin@ecocitybuilders.org.

3. Willits in Transition (WIT) workshop notes—Education and Outreach Breakout Group. Jason Bradford, facilitator 3/18/06

Priorities

1. First have a vision to communicate (the Green City Map? *Kirstin's addition)
2. Know who to talk to
3. Show concrete examples
 - a. Elsewhere
 - b. Demonstrate here
 - i. Railroad Ave corridor
 - ii. Community gardens/school farm
 - iii. Slaughter house
 - iv. Brewery

Draw from Assets

1. EL groups (WELL)
2. Chamber
3. City
4. WEC
5. Public Health Dept

Go To

1. Service Orgs (Rotary)
2. Churches
3. District Boards
4. Developers
5. Chamber (retail, manufacturing)
6. Banks (venture funds)
7. Local Ag Land Owners (Farm Bureau)

Who will do the Outreach?

1. REDI (WELL) + City partnership for outreach (CDBG)
2. EDFC to local NOGs
3. Leverage existing outreach programs
 - a. Add to what is already funded

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