

## COVID-19 and the Culver City General Plan Update Existing Conditions Reports

As part of the General Plan Update (GPU), the City of Culver City produced a series of stand-alone technical reports describing existing conditions and future trends for topics critical to the General Plan. Findings from these reports will inform future phases of the update process, including the creation of alternative land use and transportation scenarios, policy development, and environmental analysis. These reports represent conditions in Culver City that were current as of fall 2019 and early 2020 when most of the analysis was undertaken. The existing conditions reports are meant to reflect a snapshot in time and thus will not be updated throughout the rest of the GPU process.

Before publishing the existing conditions reports in spring 2020, COVID-19 emerged as a threat to global public health crisis that changed all aspects of daily life. Because most of the analysis in these reports had been completed before the pandemic, many important issues that have emerged in recent months are not covered in these reports. Nevertheless, the GPU Team is monitoring the crisis as it develops and is designing engagement opportunities to ensure it hears all stakeholders' experiences and needs, existing before and through this crisis, through the planning process.

The GPU is our opportunity to make Culver City a place where everyone thrives. The pandemic has shown us that everything and everyone—from housing to parks, from our cultural vibrancy to our bustling economy, to our natural assets and community residents, workers, and visitors—are critical to shaping and realizing this vision into the future.

As we continue to follow the Safer at Home Orders, many issues from the existing conditions reports have been magnified. The City, with support and leadership from community members, has begun to respond in ways that align with Culver City's vision for the future. These include but are not limited to:

- **Housing** – As economic activity has declined or shifted, unemployment rates have risen dramatically and more residents than before are in the economically precarious situation of being rent-burdened. Culver City has responded by extending temporary renter protection measures and creating several opportunities for community-wide conversations about long-term solutions. To address housing affordability during this economic downturn, the City has also been working on new affordable housing measures including an inclusionary ordinance, a linkage fee, rental assistance, and an affordable accessory dwelling unit program.
- **Economic Development** – Culver City created an Economic Recovery Task Force that applies an equity lens when developing opportunities for the business community to recover, ensuring that residents and visitors have equitable access to services. As part of the economic recovery effort, the City has been issuing temporary use permits to allow business expansions on private property and the public right of way, passed a commercial eviction moratorium, has relaxed parking standards and intensification of uses.
- **Mobility** – The City has been implementing lane closures in the Downtown area and the Arts District to accommodate outdoor dining and other activities; is reviewing the deployment of Slow Streets on

residential streets with low traffic volumes and speeds to provide for more outdoor space for residents while practicing social distancing; and is planning a pilot Downtown-E Line tactical mobility lane to accommodate the movement of transit buses, bicycles, scooters, and emergency vehicles.

- **Parks and Open Space Programming** – School closures and physical distancing rules for parks and open space have limited the number of recreational activities for families. To support those with young children through summer activity cancelations, the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department made summer camps virtual. To support seniors, meal delivery has changed from in-person pickup to a delivery service, that protects vulnerable residents. At the same time, food service provision extended to support more community members in need, regardless of age. From March 15 to May 15, 2020, 7,458 meals were delivered to seniors, 195+ grocery based sere delivered, 9,542 community calls made, 6,000 senior Safer at Home Guides mails, 6,000 postcards sent, 106 links provided for the virtual recreation center, and 810 acres were mowed at our parks to allow for social distancing.

While these changes have been significant, at this moment it is not possible to fully predict COVID-19's impact over the next 25 years. Projections and trends described in these existing conditions reports may differ from future conditions if there are long-lasting fundamental shifts in the economy and society. Thus, the COVID-19 pandemic has sparked questions for the Culver City GPU, including:

- What innovative ways are there to maintain or stimulate the local economy when implementing new, possibly permanent restrictions on how business needs to be conducted?
- What are some creative solutions to deal with the potential impacts of changing demand for commercial space?
- What lessons can be learned from the safer at home orders on how the City addresses mobility?
- How should we design shared spaces, from affordable multifamily housing projects to the public realms, to allow for physical distancing?
- How does the City build resilient systems and protocols to ensure it can continue to provide essential services despite disruptions?
- How can the General Plan guide equitable recovery and resiliency efforts during and after crises?
- How can the General Plan define actionable steps to implement policies and programs while allowing for flexibility in an era of uncertainty and rapid change?

To answer these questions, we need everyone engaged in sharing their different perspectives and unique stories so that, together, we can plan and build a vibrant Culver City for all.

Contact City staff at [Advance.Planning@culvercity.org](mailto:Advance.Planning@culvercity.org) or by calling <tel:1-310-253-5740> if you have any questions. Visit the GPU's [Picture Culver City project website](#) for more information about the project, where you can [find the existing conditions reports](#), [take surveys related to existing conditions](#), [watch summary videos of existing conditions](#), [send the GPU Team a message](#), [sign up for updates](#), [learn about upcoming events](#), and much more.

The City of Culver City continues to cooperate with the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) to respond to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Los Angeles County.

For updates on the City's response to COVID-19, please [visit the City's Coronavirus webpage](#).

Para leer esta información en español, por favor [visite la página web de Coronavirus de la ciudad](#).