

# PALMDALE HIGH-SPEED RAIL STATION AREA PLAN



May 17, 2016

*Student Engagement – Mobile Visioning Workshops*

*Summary Report*

## Overview

The development of a high-speed rail system in California will directly connect Palmdale with major cities throughout the state, providing a unique opportunity for the youth of Palmdale to grow-up with true statewide access and mobility. The power of this transformative project is being captured in the visioning process needed to develop the planning scenarios for the Palmdale station area. Therefore, a key element is to capture vital input from the youth of Palmdale, specifically middle and high school students who will be the generation to use high-speed rail as a primary means of future mobility. As part of the community visioning process, the Palmdale High-Speed Rail Station Area Plan project team conducted three mobile visioning workshops with students at The Palmdale Aerospace Academy (TPAA). TPAA is a charter school that has partnered with aerospace industry employers, the City of Palmdale, the Palmdale School District and others to help their students thrive in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The classrooms that participated are listed below.

Teacher	Grade/Class	Number of Students
Mr. Flores	10 <sup>th</sup> grade AP Euro	33
Mrs. Sweeney—Collins	8 <sup>th</sup> grade World History	32
Mr. Flores	10 <sup>th</sup> grade AP Euro	27

The student engagement consisted of a presentation starting with project team introductions. The team emphasized educational background and work experience in the planning and outreach fields which also provided the students with some insight regarding higher education and career options.

To introduce the students to the field of planning, an inspirational two-minute video titled, *The Future Belongs to Those Who Prepare For It* was shown. The video showed a young planner looking at an empty lot and envisioning the possibilities. The video featured a montage of steps that are needed to make the vision a reality including talking to the community, technical specifications and finally implementation.

A brief project overview was provided to the classes, which included international case studies featuring cities similar to Palmdale that have integrated a high-speed rail station into their community. Also included were examples of various precedents of HSR station architecture

Following the project overview, the project team conducted a preference voting exercise with the use of TurningPoint software. This software utilizes a remote wireless device given to each participant allowing real time audience response and preference voting that is compiled immediately as a pie or bar chart on the PowerPoint slides. The project team then reviewed the results of each question orally with the classes and received feedback from the students on the reasoning for their choices. A summary of the results by classroom is provided below. The full presentation and TurningPoint reports are included in the appendix section of this report.

### **Period 1 – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade/AP Euro**

33 students were present and participated in the in the survey. The questions and classroom results are below.

1. What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station?  
A. Pedestrian 24%    B. Bike 21%    C. Auto 27%    D. Auto 27%

2. What makes a place vibrant and lively?

- A. Pedestrian Streets 48%      B. Nightlife 45%      C. Festivals and Parades 6%

3. Which image is a good example of mixed uses?

- A. 18%      B. 21%



- C. 15%

- D. 45%



4. Open space can take many forms. Choose which is most appealing to you.

- A. Parks 42%      B. Urban Plazas 21%      C. Public Art 15%      D. Community Gardens 21%

5. What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets?

- A. Bike Lane 6%      B. Bike Route 53%      C. Bike Track 40%      D. Shared Lane 0%

6. What is your priority for planning around the HSR station?

- A. Connectivity 30%      B. Vibrancy 51%      C. Compact Development 3%      D. Open Space 15%

### ***Period 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/World History***

32 students were present and participated in the in the survey. The questions and classroom results are below.

1. What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station?

- A. Pedestrian 31%      B. Bike 31%      C. Auto 21%      D. Auto 15%

2. What makes a place vibrant and lively?

- A. Pedestrian Streets 15%      B. Nightlife 56%      C. Festivals and Parades 28%

3. Which image is a good example of mixed uses?

A. 24%

B. 9%



C. 36%

D. 30%



4. Open space can take many forms. Choose which is most appealing to you.

A. Parks 34%    B. Urban Plazas 28%    C. Public Art 28%    D. Community Gardens 9%

5. What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets?

A. Bike Lane 3%    B. Bike Route 71%    C. Bike Track 18%    D. Shared Lane 6%

6. What is your priority for planning around the HSR station?

A. Connectivity 9%    B. Vibrancy 54%    C. Compact Development 9%    D. Open Space 25%

**Period 3 – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade/AP Euro**

27 students were present and participated in the in the survey. The questions and classroom results are below.

1. What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station?

A. Pedestrian 25%    B. Bike 37%    C. Auto 25%    D. Auto 11%

2. What makes a place vibrant and lively?

A. Pedestrian Streets 39%    B. Nightlife 42%    C. Festivals and Parades 17%

3. Which image is a good example of mixed uses?

A. 29%

B. 7%



C. 14%



D. 48%



4. Open space can take many forms. Choose which is most appealing to you.  
 A. Parks 44%    B. Urban Plazas 29%    C. Public Art 14%    D. Community Gardens 11%
5. What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets?  
 A. Bike Lane 3%    B. Bike Route 92%    C. Bike Track 3%    D. Shared Lane 0%
6. What is your priority for planning around the HSR station?  
 A. Connectivity 46%    B. Vibrancy 35%    C. Compact Development 0%    D. Open Space 17%

Finally, the project team had the class participate in a group exercise that asked the students to envision the future of their station area. Each group was asked to design a site surrounding the proposed high-speed rail station. The students were provided a large print out of current land uses for the area as well as a grey scale version. Next, they were asked to work together to draw and list what types of development they would like to see on the site in the future. Members of the consultant team were on hand to engage the students and answer questions during the activity.

After the groups decided priorities and finalized their site plans, 1-2 student representatives from each group presented their plan and vision to the classroom. If time was available, the students asked questions and provided feedback on their ideas. Each group had a unique take on the area and overall, students were enthusiastic to engage in an activity that would directly impact the future of their community. Photos of the activities as well as the finished site plans are included in the appendix.

Additionally, the project team developed a short online survey in order to reach a wider range of students. This survey will be promoted in each classroom and students will be encouraged to use the link provided and participate in the survey. Questions included various topics related to the station area plan and for the sake of consistency were designed to be very similar to the preference survey that was conducted in the classroom. A list of the survey questions can be found in the appendix.

# Appendices

# PALMDALE HIGH-SPEED RAIL STATION AREA PLAN

Preference Survey  
May 17, 2016





## Agenda for Today

- Project Team Introductions
- Overview of the Palmdale HSR SAP Project
- Video -The Future Belongs to Those Who Prepare for It
- Case Studies
- TurningPoint Preference Survey and Discussion
- Site Plan Activity
- Summary of Results

# Project Team



Roland Genick, Chief Architect, Parsons

- Education

- B.S. Architecture, Technische Universitat, Germany

- Experience

- 24 years of design and management experience
- Management of large-scale commercial and mixed-use projects, transportation corridors, and transit facilities through all phases of design, from schematic design concepts through design development and construction.

Chester Britt, Project Director, Arellano Associates

- Education

- B.A. Sociology and Business Administration, UCLA

- Experience

- 28 years of public outreach and management experience
- Management of diverse communications and planning programs for numerous large-scale and high-profile transportation projects

# What is High-Speed Rail?



- Electrified Rail Cars
- 220 mph
- Stations 30+ miles apart, 24 total
- Will serve San Francisco to Los Angeles and general Southern California region



# Purpose and Need



- 1 Enhance Local and Regional Multi-Modal Transportation Options**
- 2 Create Short and Long-Term Economic Development Opportunities**
- 3 Generate Opportunities for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)**
- 4 Promote Smart Growth Development Opportunities**

# Where



**LEGEND**

- High Desert Corridor Alignment
- Ave Q Study Area
- TOD3 Study Area
- Study Area
- High-Speed Rail Alignment
- Proposed Express West Alignment



# Work Plan and Process



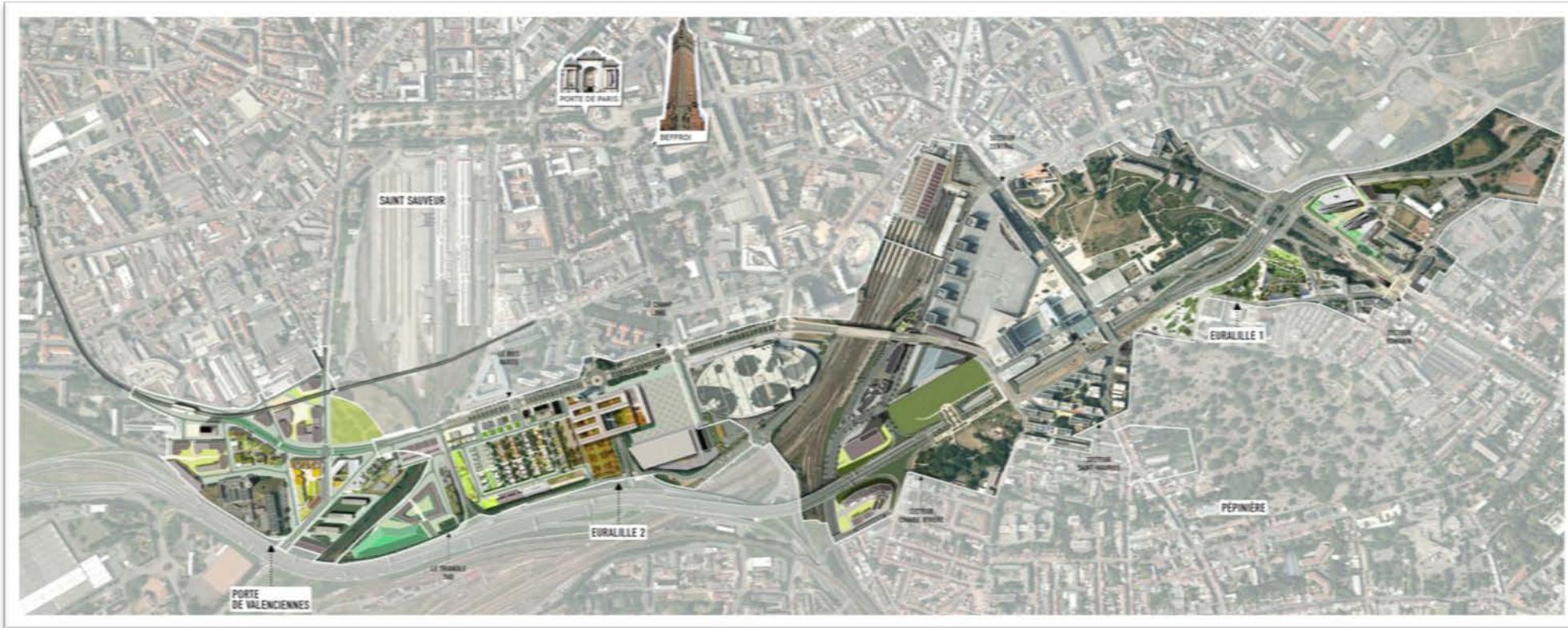
Technical Working Group (TWG) Meetings, Events and Pop Up Meetings

*\* Subject to change*

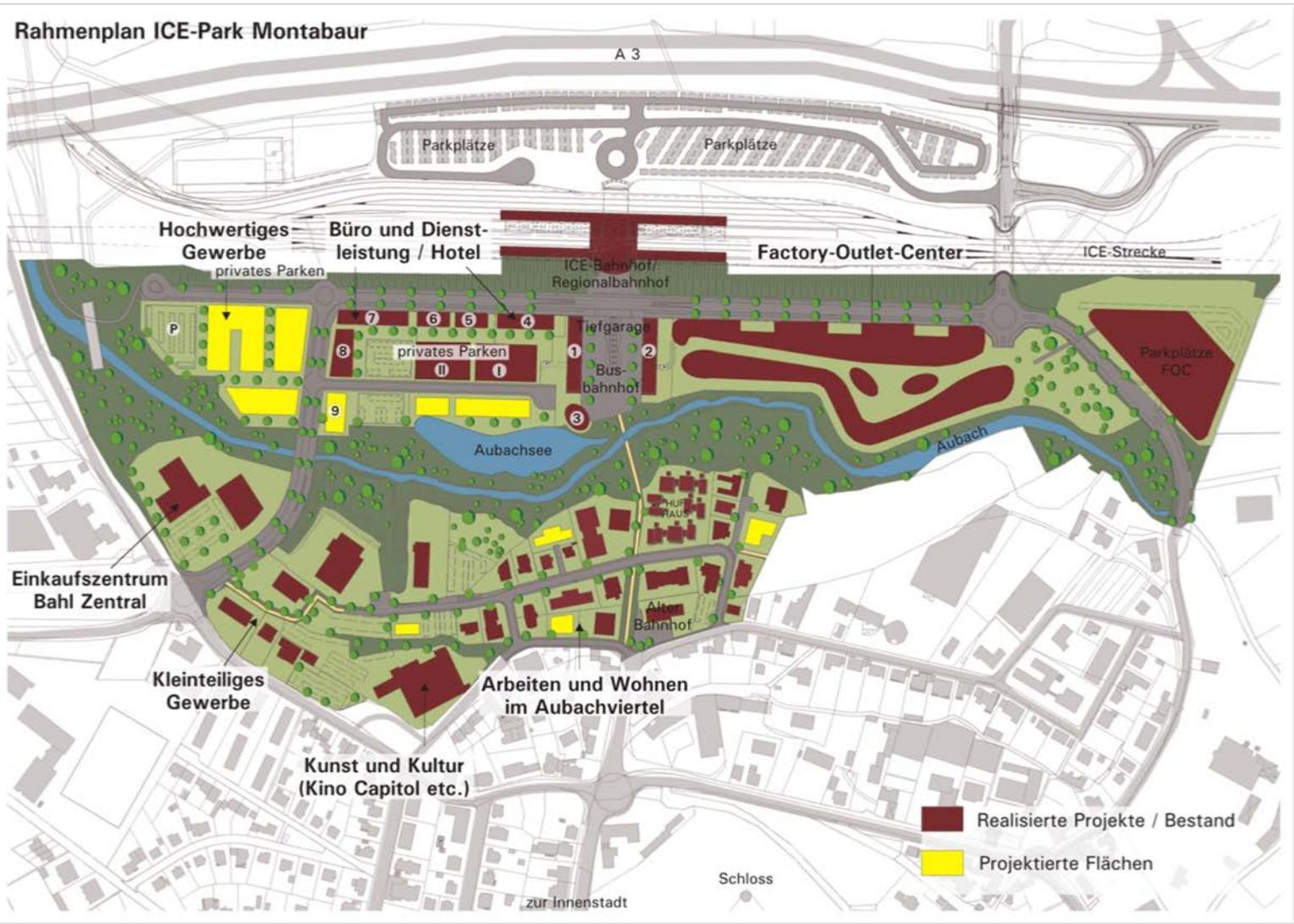
# The Future Belongs to Those Who Prepare for it



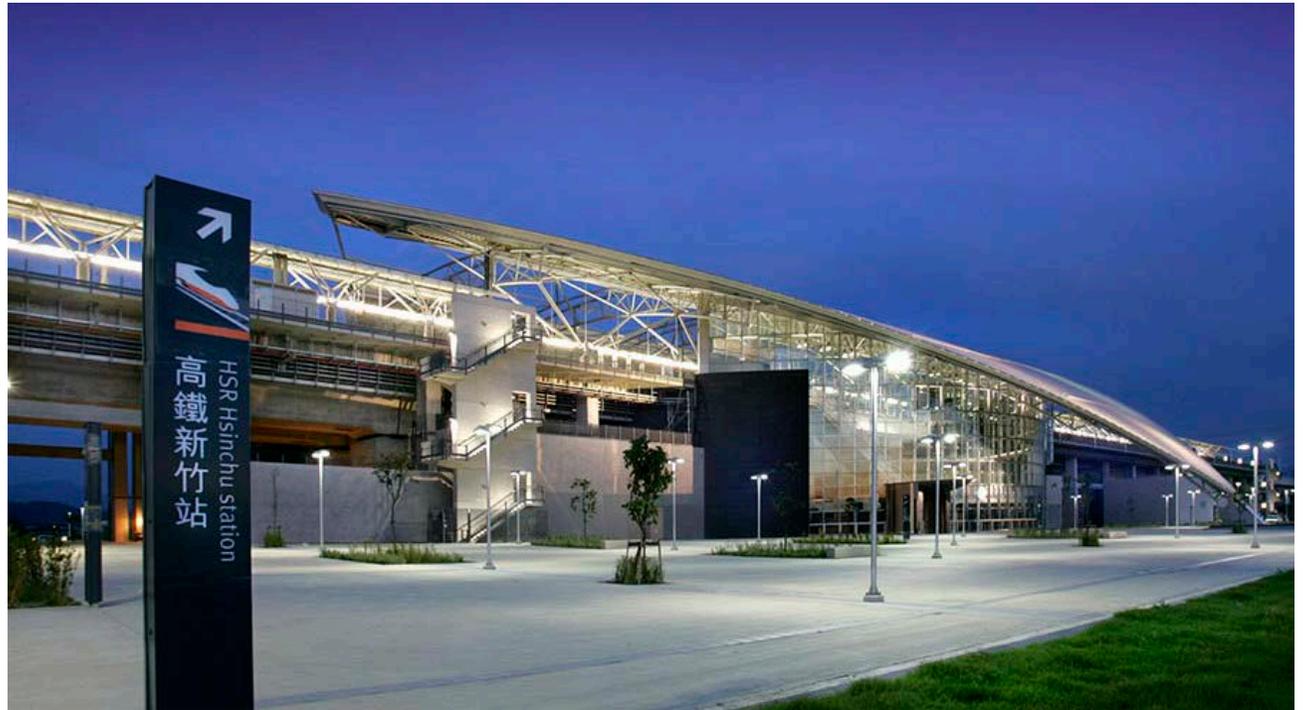
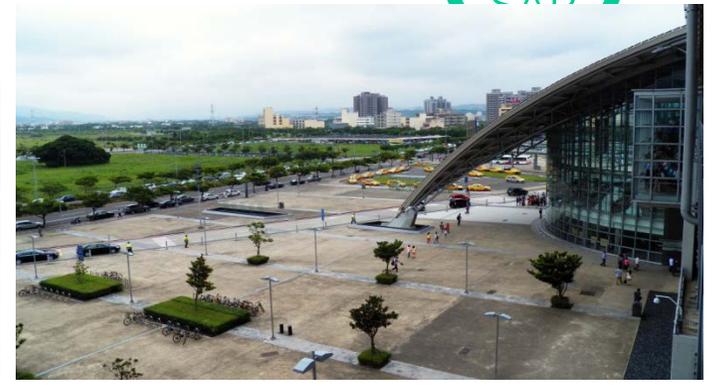
# Similar Case Studies – Lille, France



# Similar Case Studies – Montabaur, Germany



# HSR Hsinchu Station, Taiwan



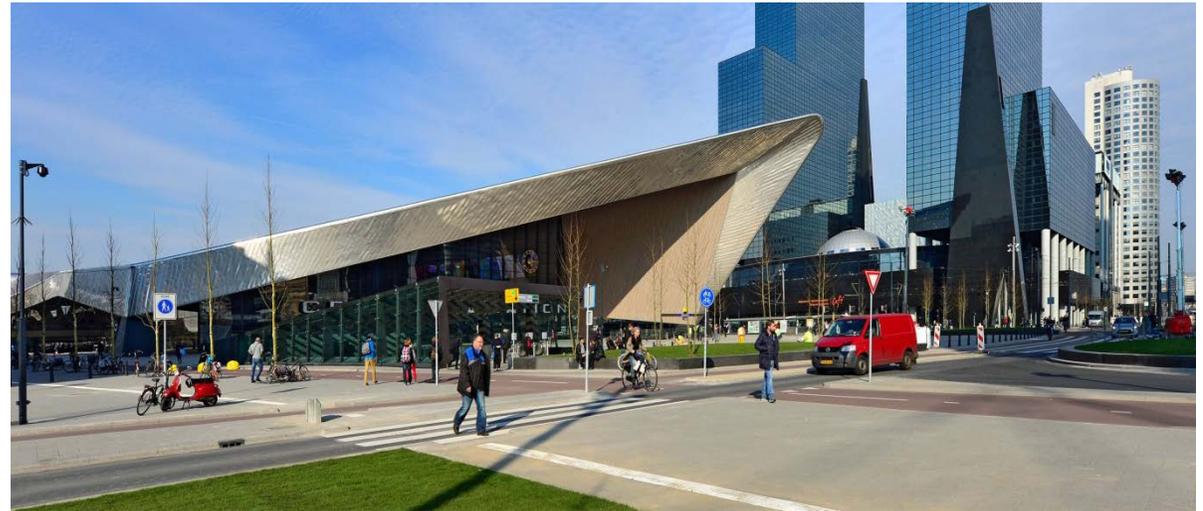
# Main Rail Station, Cologne, Germany



# Liege-Guillemins Station, Liege, Belgium



# Rotterdam Central Station, Rotterdam, Netherlands



# Instructions

The following Visual Preference Survey is designed to obtain your preferences and input on the future of the Palmdale high-speed rail station area.



# Instructions



The survey is divided into a variety of topic areas. Answer each question and rate images on the basis of:

- Is it appropriate for Palmdale?
- Do not focus on the quality of the image, but rather what it represents.

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers. Go with your initial “gut” reaction. Have fun! 😊



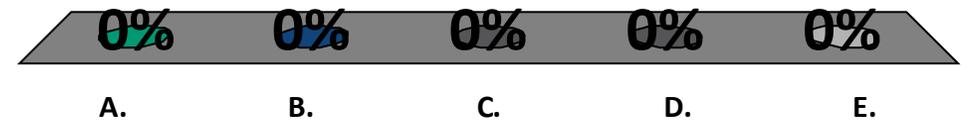
# Test – Example #1



What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

*Pick your favorite (select one)*

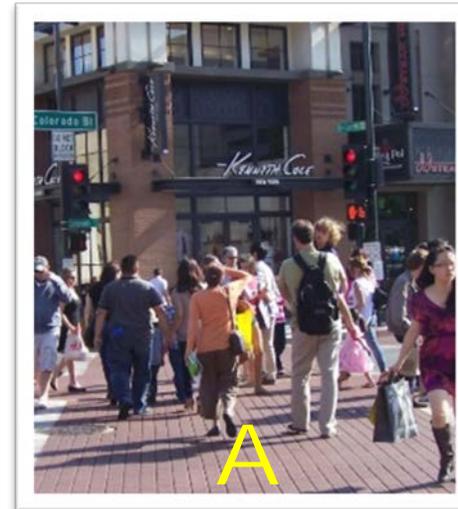
- A. Vanilla
- B. Chocolate
- C. Strawberry
- D. Chocolate Chip
- E. Other



# What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station?



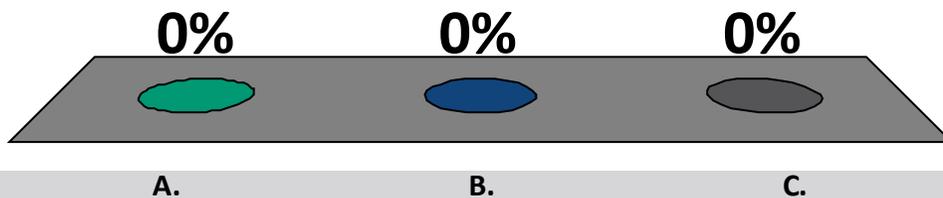
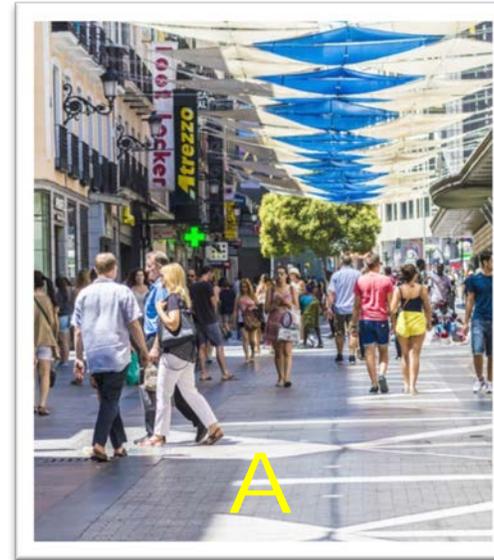
- A. Pedestrian
- B. Bike
- C. Auto
- D. Bus



# What makes a place vibrant and lively?



- A. Pedestrian Streets
- B. Nightlife
- C. Festivals and Parades

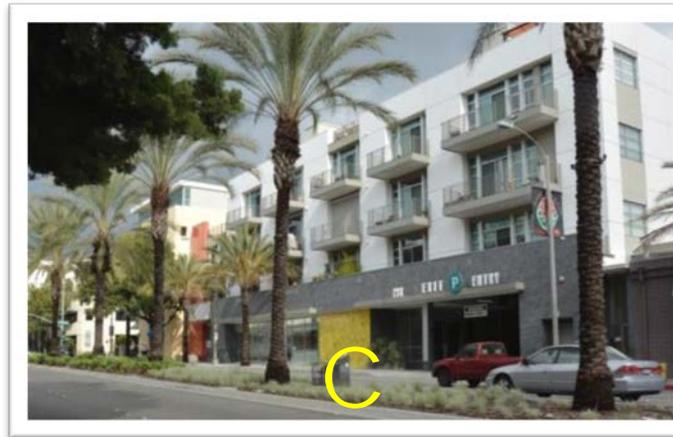
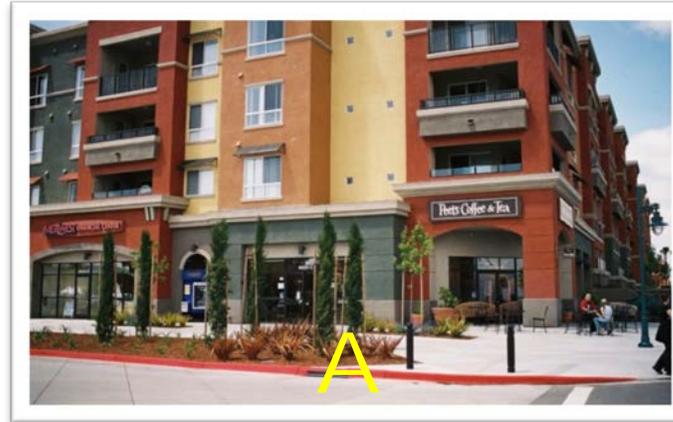


# Which image is a good example of mixed uses?



Choose which picture you like best

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.



A.

B.

C.

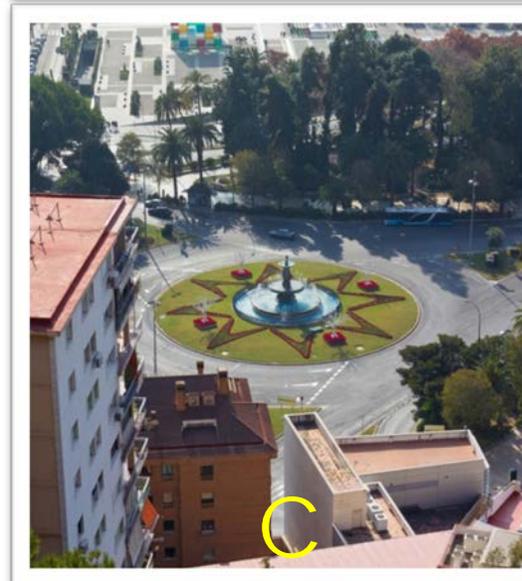
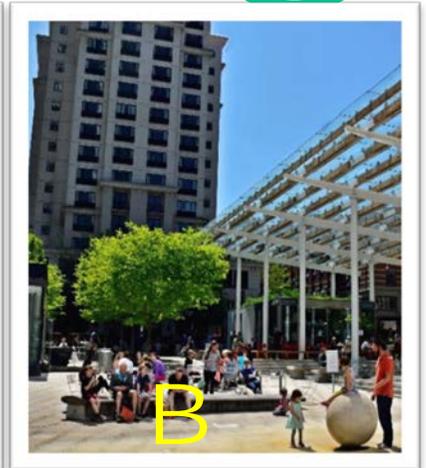
D.

# Open Space Can Take Many Forms



Choose which picture you like best

- A. Parks
- B. Urban Plazas
- C. Public Art
- D. Community Gardens



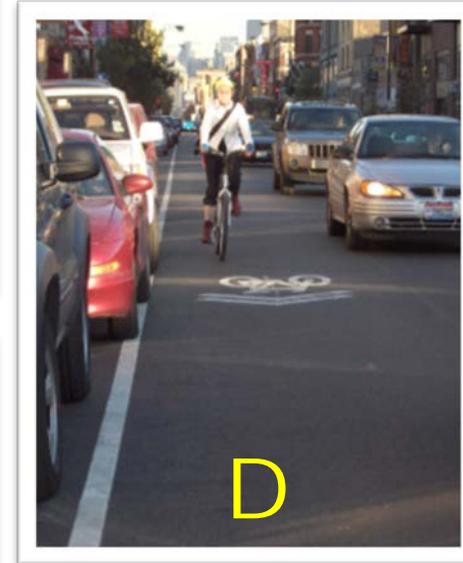
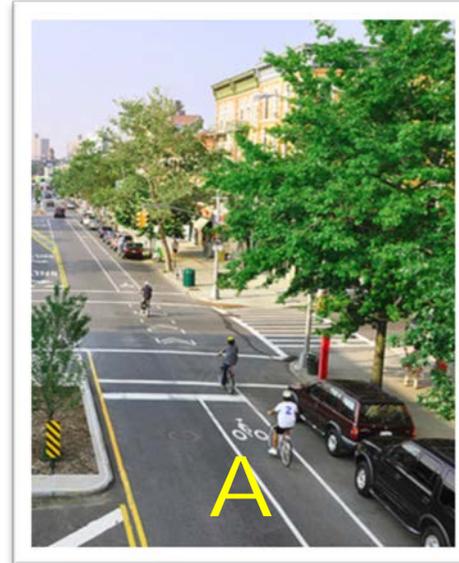
A.                      B.                      C.                      D.

# What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets?



Choose which picture you like best

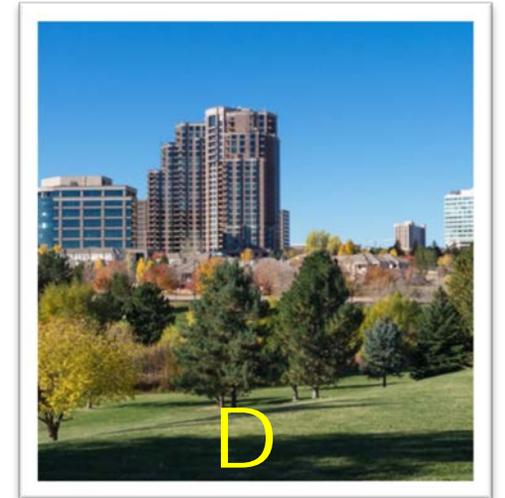
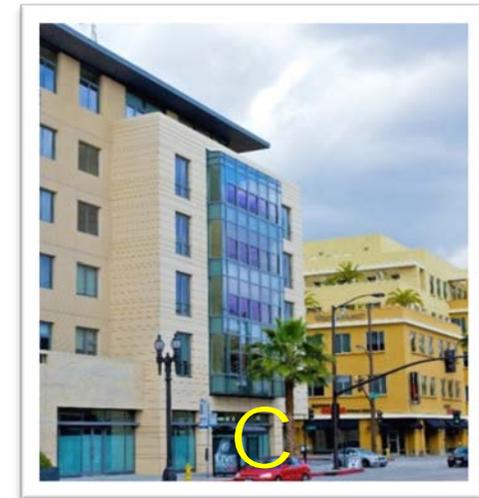
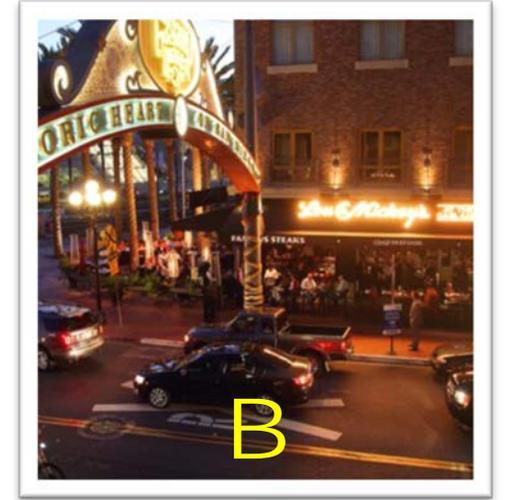
- A. Bike Lane
- B. Bike Route
- C. Bike Track
- D. Shared Lane



# What is Your Priority for Planning Around the HSR Station?



- A. Connectivity
- B. Vibrancy
- C. Compact Development
- D. Open Space



A.                      B.                      C.                      D.

# What does Palmdale mean to you?



- Use one word to describe what the City of Palmdale means to you.





**Use One Word to Describe What the City of Palmdale Means to You**

<b>Mr. Flores/AP EURO/10<sup>th</sup> Grade/Period 1</b>						
Dull (x3)	Home (x7)	Boring (x4)	Plain (x2)	Quiet	Wind	Vacant
Nothing	Desolate	Desert	Dirt	Dust	Familiarity	Disconnected
Motivation	Lacking	It's okay	Small Community	Regressing	Improvement	Simple

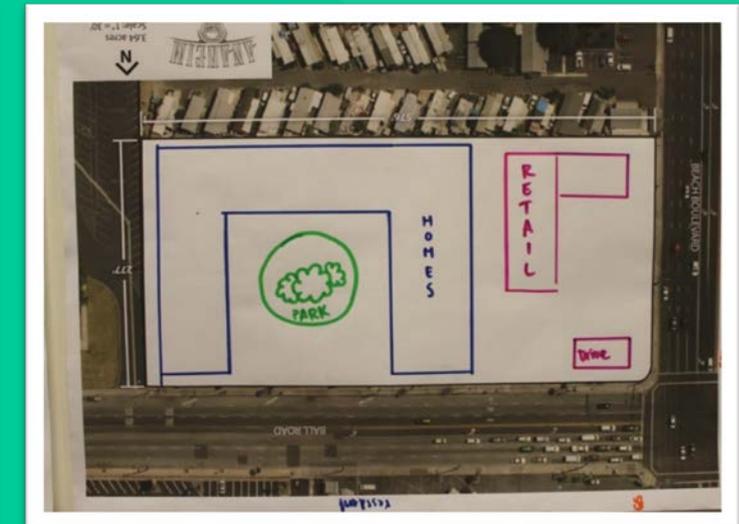
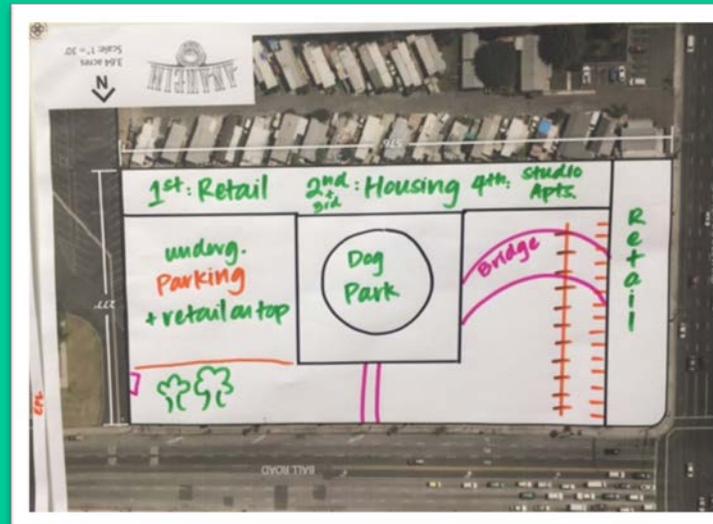
<b>Mrs. Sweeney-Collins/World History/8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Period 2</b>						
Boring (x5)	Home (3)	Hot (x2)	Hometown	Desert	Cultural	Dead
Weird	Average	Unimportant	Uninteresting	Sectionalized	Calm	Family
Plain	Crusty	Hell	Unpleasantly comfortable (ghetto but home)			

<b>Mr. Flores/AP EURO/10<sup>th</sup> Grade/Period 3</b>						
Boring (x6)	Open Space (x2)	Home (x2)	Plain	Dirt	Residential	Arid
Family	Spread out	Lonely	Unattractive	Small	Desert	Disconnected
Lifeless	Unpleasing	Empty	Industrial	Planes	Opportunity	Community

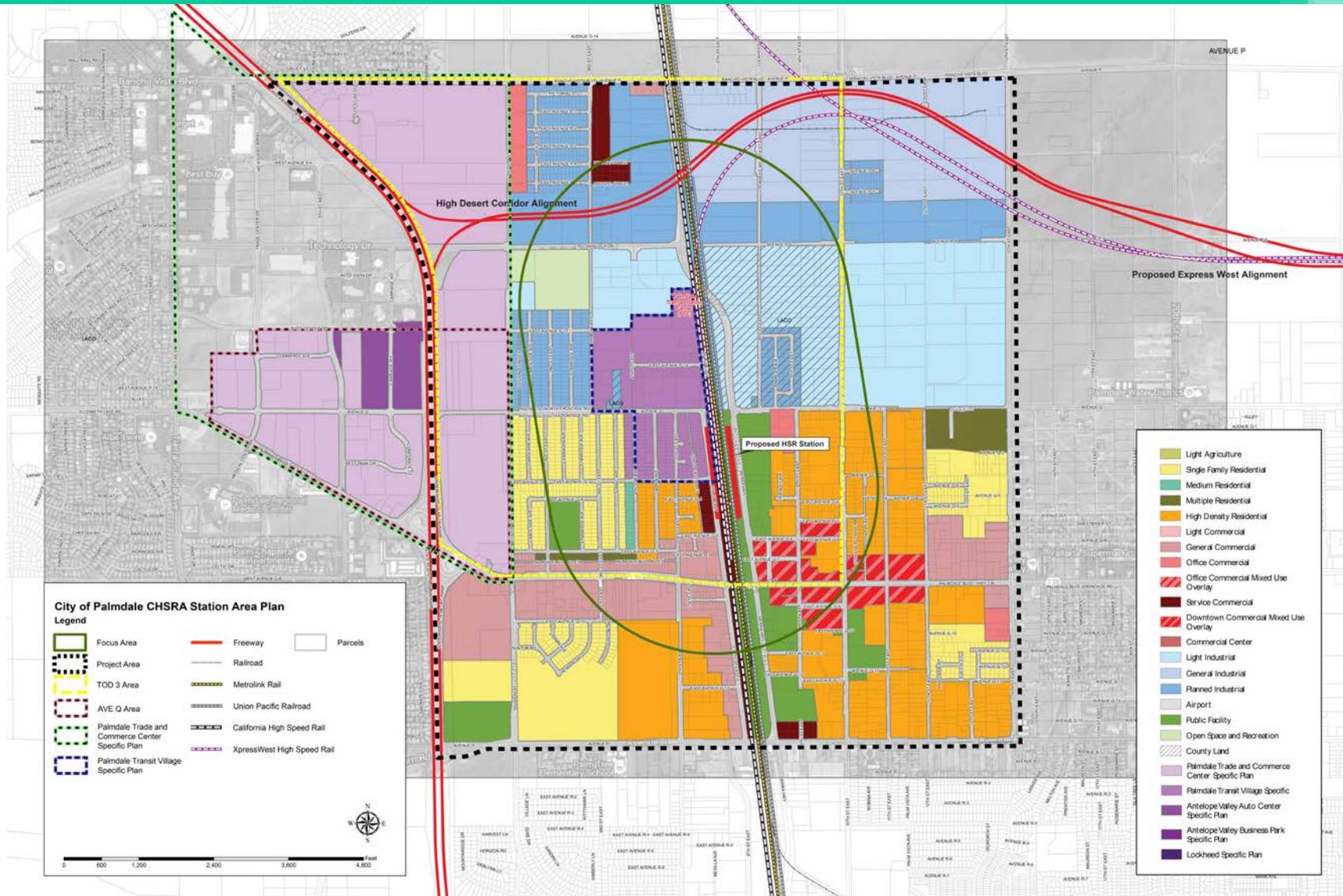
# Group Exercises



- Divide students into 5 groups
- Design a land use map informed by the preceding project presentation
- “Develop” a site in the area based on the preceding project presentation
- Once completed, students can present their ideas to the class



# Existing Land Use Designation



# Land Use Categories for Station Planning



- **Residential**
  - Single family house
  - Multi-family housing- town house
  - Multi-family housing- apartment/complex
- **Open Space**
  - Green spaces and parks
  - Public Plaza
- **Industrial**
  - Heavy Industrial (manufacturing plants)
  - Light industrial (processing plants, storages, etc.)
- **Commercial**
  - Office buildings
  - Hotel
  - Shopping mall
  - Retail
  - Restaurants and movie theatre
- **Mixed-use**
  - Office/ Residential/ Retail

# How can you stay involved?

- Community Meetings
- On-line Student Survey
- Website:  
[www.cityofpalmdale.org/projects/hsrsap](http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/projects/hsrsap)



**Community Meeting for the Palmdale High-Speed Rail Station Area Plan**

The City of Palmdale is undertaking station area planning around a future High-Speed Rail Multi-Modal Transit Station near downtown Palmdale and invites you attend a community meeting on April 21st, 2016. As a part of the project the Station Area Plan (SAP) will analyze the benefits a HSR station will generate for the City of Palmdale, and the Antelope Valley. The plan will develop urban design recommendations, establish a mobility strategy, and identify economic development opportunities. Please join us the project and provide your input.

**ayuda del Plan para el Área de Estación del Tren de Alta Velocidad**

do en el proyecto de planeación estación Multimodal del Tren de Alta ale y le invita a asistir a una reunión como parte del proyecto del Plan (siglas en inglés) se analizarán los n del Tren de Alta Velocidad (HSR) de Antelope. El plan desarrollará se establecerá una estrategia de ades de desarrollo económico. Por el proyecto, informarse acerca del sta.

**Chimbole Cultural Center**  
Manzanita Ballroom  
38350 Sierra Highway  
Palmdale, CA 93550

**Help us plan the future Palmdale HSR station area.**

**Community Meeting for the Palmdale High-Speed Rail Station Area Plan**

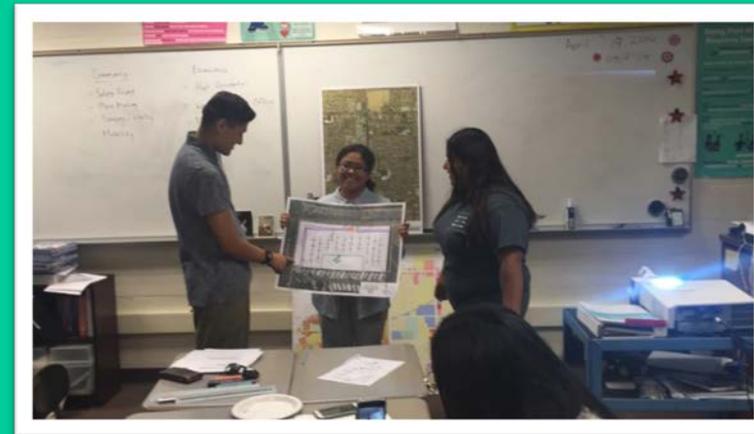
**April 21, 2016**

ing methods:  
ualquiera de los métodos siguientes:

- [www.cityofpalmdale.org/Projects/HSRSAP](http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/Projects/HSRSAP)
- [www.facebook.com/CityofPalmdale](https://www.facebook.com/CityofPalmdale)
- @PalmdaleCity

The flyer features a background map of the station area with a "Proposed Development" area highlighted. It includes the Palmdale SAP logo and social media contact information.

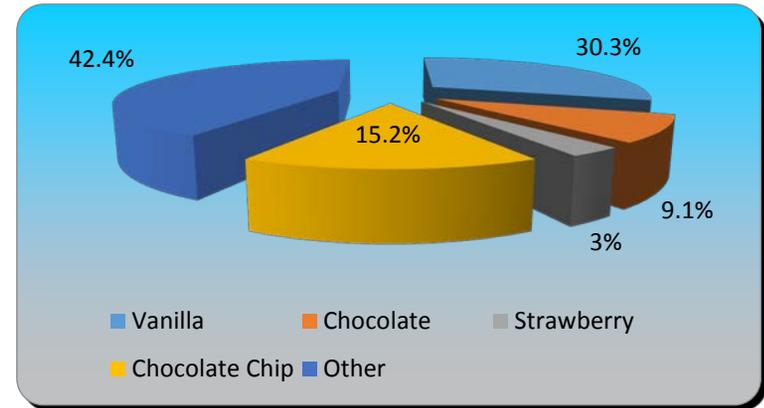
# Summary of Results and Questions



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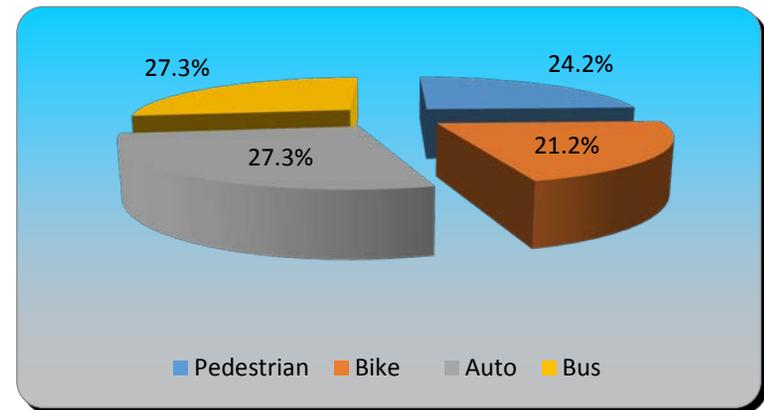
**1.) What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Pick your favorite (select one) (multiple choice)**

	Responses	
Vanilla	10	30.30%
Chocolate	3	9.09%
Strawberry	1	3.03%
Chocolate Chip	5	15.15%
Other	14	42.42%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>

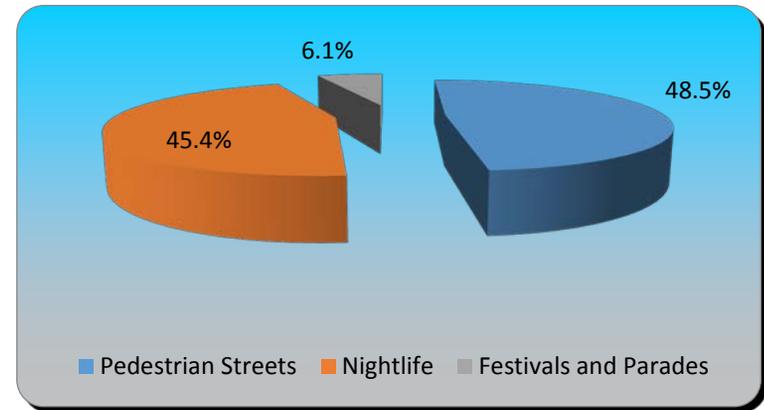


**2.) What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station? (multiple choice)**

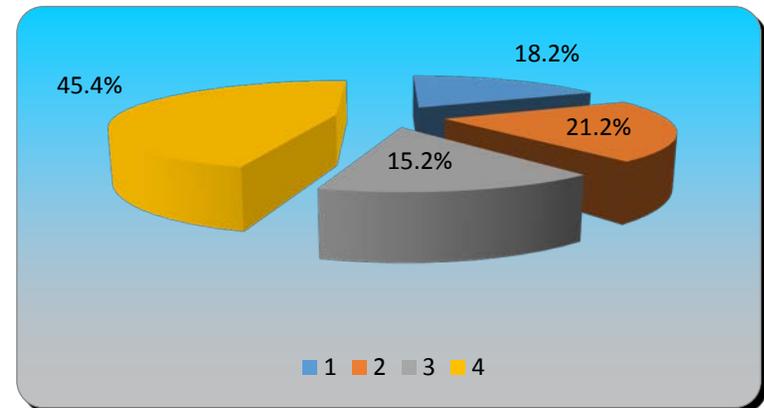
	Responses	
Pedestrian	8	24.24%
Bike	7	21.21%
Auto	9	27.27%
Bus	9	27.27%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



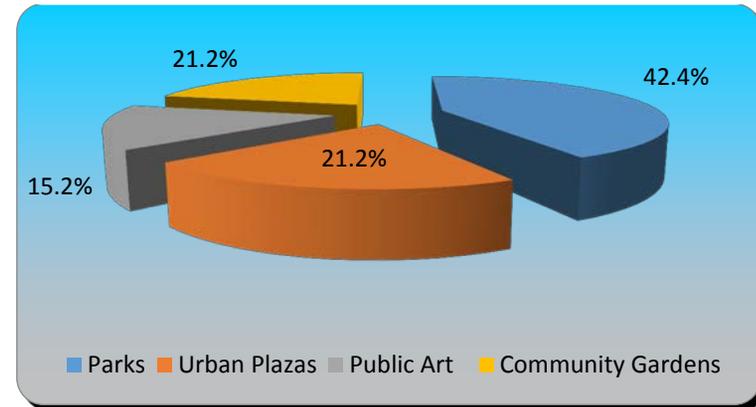
<b>3.) What makes a place vibrant and lively? (multiple choice)</b>		<b>Responses</b>	
Pedestrian Streets	16	48.48%	
Nightlife	15	45.45%	
Festivals and Parades	2	6.06%	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>	



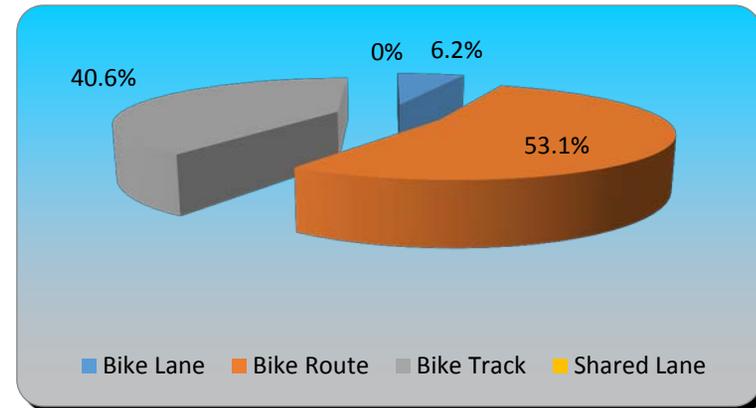
<b>4.) Which image is a good example of mixed uses? (multiple choice)</b>		<b>Responses</b>	
6	18.18%		
7	21.21%		
5	15.15%		
15	45.45%		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>	



<b>5.) Open Space Can Take Many Forms (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Parks	14	42.42%
Urban Plazas	7	21.21%
Public Art	5	15.15%
Community Gardens	7	21.21%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



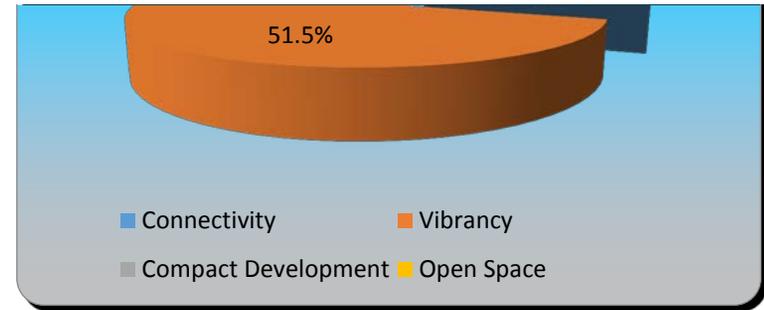
<b>6.) What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Bike Lane	2	6.25%
Bike Route	17	53.12%
Bike Track	13	40.62%
Shared Lane	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>7.) What is Your Priority for Planning Around the HSR Station? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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Connectivity	10	30.30%
Vibrancy	17	51.52%
Compact Development	1	3.03%
Open Space	5	15.15%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



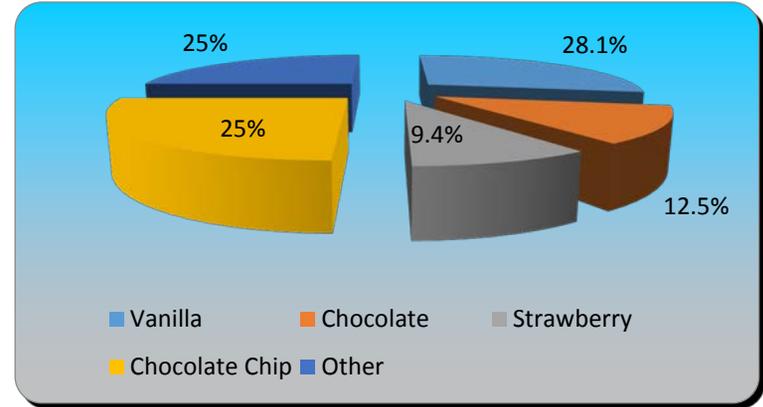
Turning Graphical Results by Question

Session Name: Current Session

Created: 5/17/2016 11:42 AM

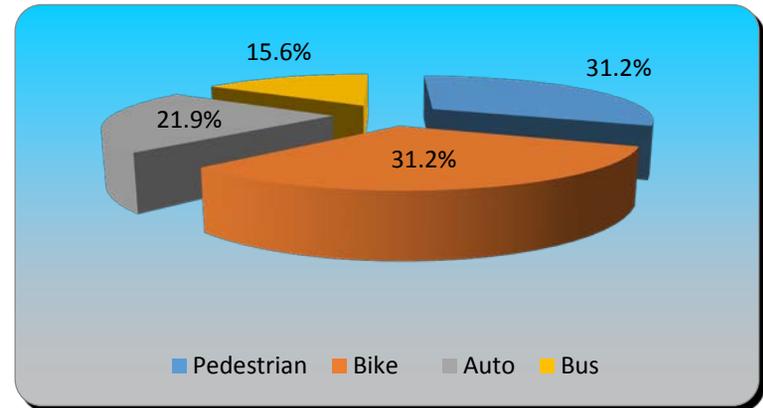
1.) What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Pick your favorite (select one) (multiple choice)

	Responses	
Vanilla	9	28.12%
Chocolate	4	12.50%
Strawberry	3	9.38%
Chocolate Chip	8	25%
Other	8	25%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

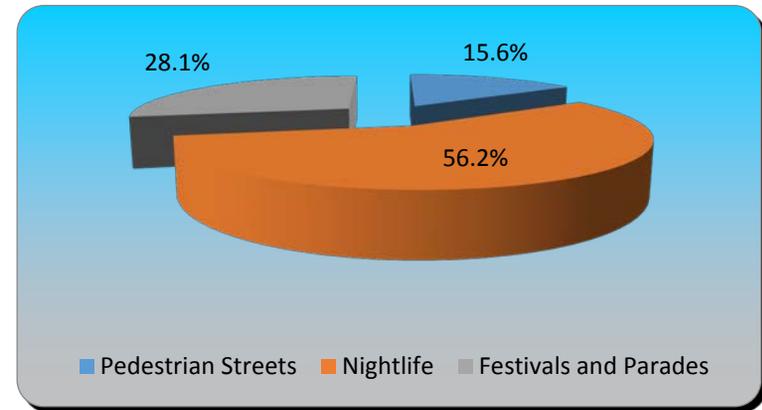


2.) What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station? (multiple choice)

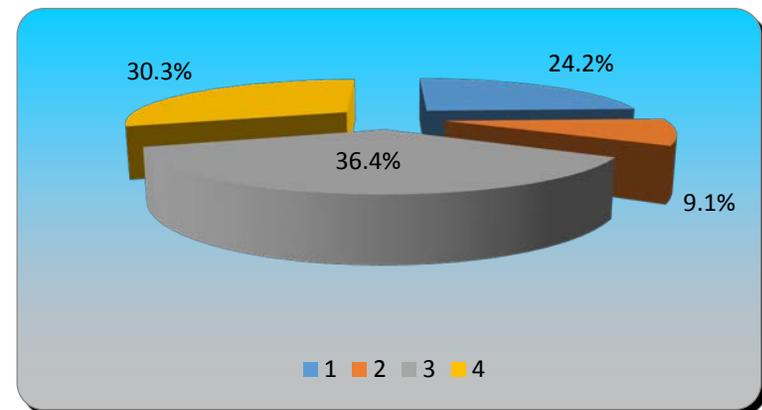
	Responses	
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>



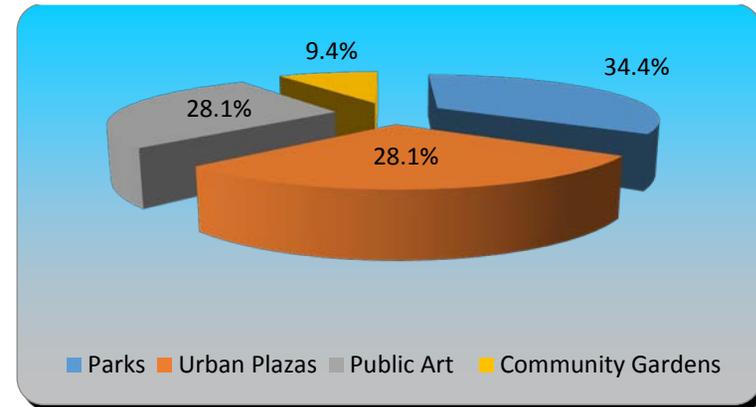
<b>3.) What makes a place vibrant and lively? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Pedestrian Streets	5	15.62%
Nightlife	18	56.25%
Festivals and Parades	9	28.12%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>



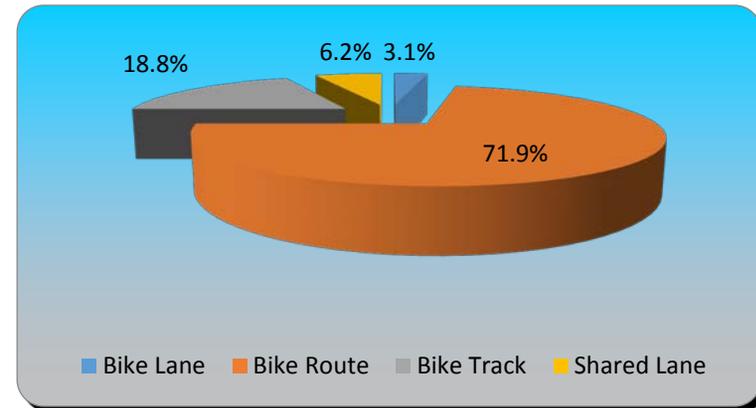
<b>4.) Which image is a good example of mixed uses? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
	8	24.24%
	3	9.09%
	12	36.36%
	10	30.30%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>5.) Open Space Can Take Many Forms (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Parks	11	34.38%
Urban Plazas	9	28.12%
Public Art	9	28.12%
Community Gardens	3	9.38%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>



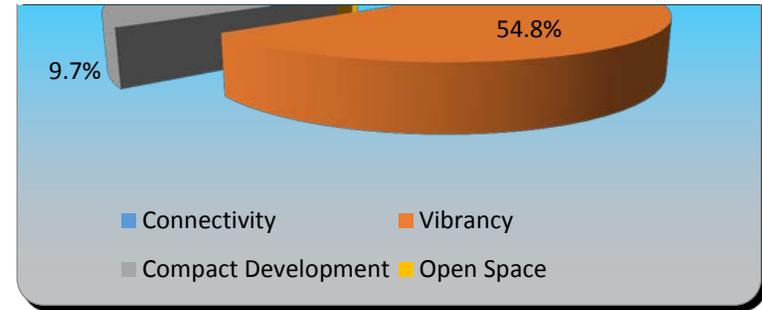
<b>6.) What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Bike Lane	1	3.12%
Bike Route	23	71.88%
Bike Track	6	18.75%
Shared Lane	2	6.25%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>7.) What is Your Priority for Planning Around the HSR Station? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>
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Connectivity	3	9.68%
Vibrancy	17	54.84%
Compact Development	3	9.68%
Open Space	8	25.81%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>



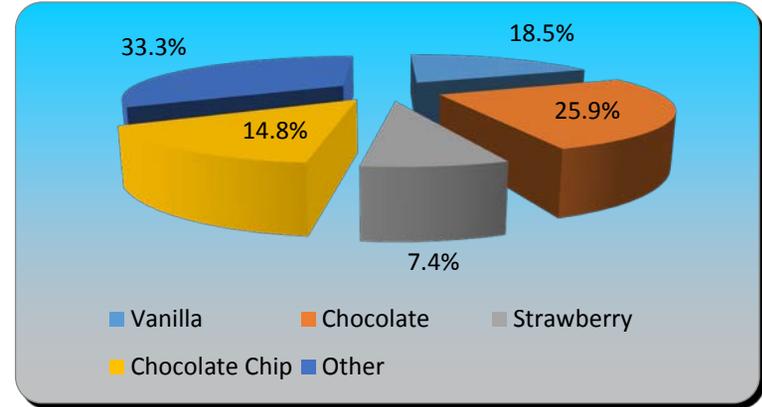
Turning Graphical Results by Question

Session Name: Current Session

Created: 5/17/2016 2:58 PM

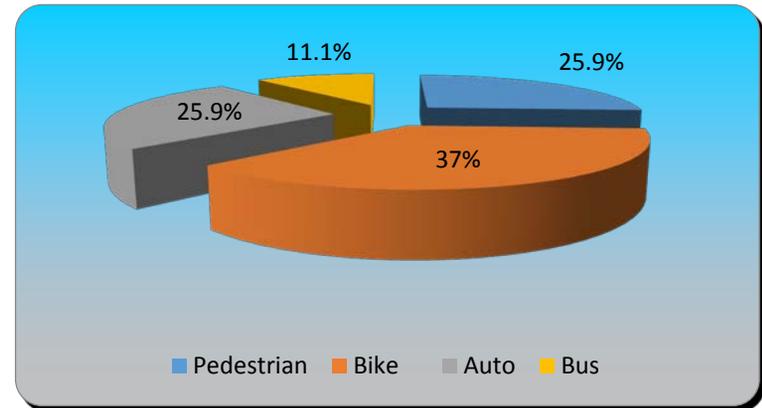
**1.) What is your favorite ice cream flavor? Pick your favorite (select one) (multiple choice)**

	Responses	
Vanilla	5	18.52%
Chocolate	7	25.93%
Strawberry	2	7.41%
Chocolate Chip	4	14.81%
Other	9	33.33%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>

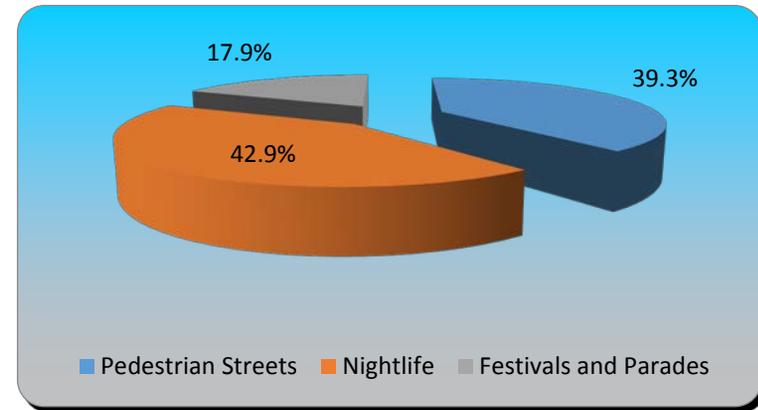


**2.) What is the best way to connect to the High-Speed Rail Station? (multiple choice)**

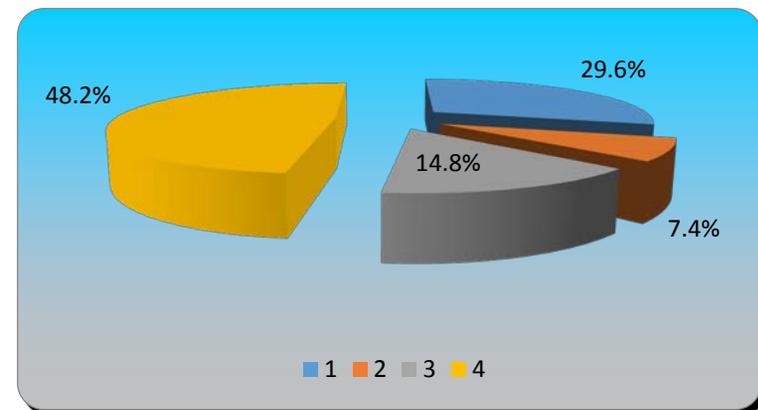
	Responses	
Pedestrian	7	25.93%
Bike	10	37.04%
Auto	7	25.93%
Bus	3	11.11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>



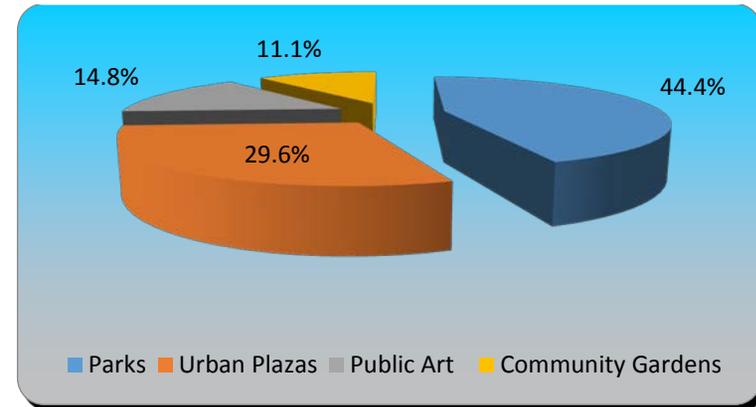
<b>3.) What makes a place vibrant and lively? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Pedestrian Streets	11	39.29%
Nightlife	12	42.86%
Festivals and Parades	5	17.86%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>



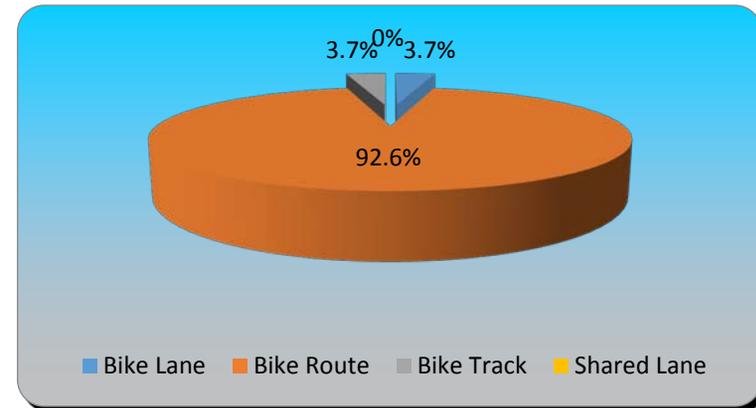
<b>4.) Which image is a good example of mixed uses? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
	8	29.63%
	2	7.41%
	4	14.81%
	13	48.15%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>5.) Open Space Can Take Many Forms (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Parks	12	44.44%
Urban Plazas	8	29.63%
Public Art	4	14.81%
Community Gardens	3	11.11%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>



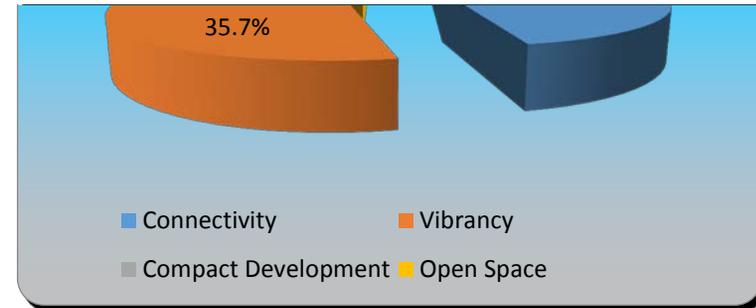
<b>6.) What is the best way to integrate bicycles onto streets? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Bike Lane	1	3.70%
Bike Route	25	92.59%
Bike Track	1	3.70%
Shared Lane	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>



<b>7.) What is Your Priority for Planning Around the HSR Station? (multiple choice)</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
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Connectivity	13	46.43%
Vibrancy	10	35.71%
Compact Development	0	0%
Open Space	5	17.86%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>







## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Palmdale is undertaking station area planning around a future High-Speed Rail (HSR) Multi-Modal Transit Station near downtown Palmdale. As a part of the project the Station Area Plan (SAP) will analyze the benefits a HSR station will generate for the City of Palmdale and the Antelope Valley.

This survey will assist with the effort to develop a vision and urban design recommendations, establish a mobility strategy, and identify economic development opportunities.

### Survey Questions

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What is your favorite mobility mode to get from one place to another?

**1**

1. Skateboard
2. Scooter
3. Skates
4. Bicycle
5. Train
6. Bus
7. Walking
8. Car
9. Other

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**2**

Before this survey, did you know that the state of California is in the process of building a train system that will eventually provide service across the state and has the ability to go over 200 miles per hour?

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**3**

In one word, describe what the City of Palmdale means to you.

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**4**

What type of features would you like to see within a High-Speed Rail Station? Please select your top three choices.

1. Benches
2. Bicycle racks
3. Convenience store
4. Restrooms
5. Lighting
6. Public Art
7. Trash receptables

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**5**

What land-uses should be located close to the High Speed Rail Station? Please select your top three choices.

1. Restaurants
2. Retail stores
3. Housing
4. Parks/open space
5. Entertainment venues
6. Hotels

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**6**

Of the following picture examples of a mixed-use area (housing/retail combined) which of the photos most appeal to you and would you like to see around the station?

(four sample scenario photos were provided)

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**7**

Of the following options, which type of bicycle and pedestrian facilities do you think would work best or would you like to see in the area surrounding the station?

(four sample scenario photos were provided)

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**8**

Of the following options, which scenario do you think is the best fit to provide for retail and entertainment venues around the station area?

(four sample scenario photos were provided)

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**9**

Choose which neighborhood design most appeals to you or that you think would work well for the housing/neighborhoods that will surround the station areas.

(four sample scenario photos were provided)

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**10**

Will you personally use High-Speed Rail once completed?

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