**Existing Conditions meeting Chat Comments**

**Main Group:**

Discussion

What Improvements would you like to see in Salinas?

* I live on Soledad Street and would like to see improvements on the street pavement
* Live in South Salinas, would like to see all streets and parks are treated the same across Salinas.
* Traffic calming, code enforcement to number of people per home.
* More Trash cans to Reduce littering
* I live in The Alisal. I want to regulate parking and speed on our residential roads.
* Santa Rita area would like to see more parks in our area and more affordable housing. Sidewalks by the San Juan Road area
* I live in North Salinas. I'd like to see more affordable housing and nice parks and fountains.
* I would like to see traffic lights and cameras for ticketing speeding vehicles. This occurs on a regular basis at the corner of San Juan Grade & Rogge Roads. There are 3-city schools on Rogge Road. The traffic is horrendous and sometimes I am unable to leave my home because of severe traffic.
* Grew up in the Eastside and I would like better sidewalks, streets to be safer and cleaner. Affordable housing, better roads.
* Old Town. Would like to see more affordable housing development. Reduce parking requirements that are increasing the rent prices
* District 4 I want to see the city improve the parks that are completely neglected — there are some areas like the one by Walgreens on Sanborn or the creek area between Madeira and Circle Dr. that can be transformed for public recreational use
* Would like to see better integration of Hartnell College with the surrounding neighborhood; better high-density housing in the downtown and improved commercial districts in the downtown and South Main.
* Natividad, Boronda, El Dorado improvements to the streets, sidewalks, and traffic control
* Not all areas of the city get the same number of services or are as clean and new. I would like to see parks and schools get the same support, regardless of their location.
* Walkable communities, neighborhood public transportation. Missing middle housing types.
* A welcome sign off 101. Many years I was greeted by a Budweiser ad
* Form based codes, passive house building codes.
* 93905 - clean updated parks, community gardens, kid-safe bike-riding spaces, sidewalk maintenance including trash cans
* Lighting throughout the city of Salinas
* More walkable areas in North Salinas. Also, would like to see areas of blight cleaned up and too many dead cars on the street.
* Recent improvements to the downtown- traffic and the train station are great- a long term solution to the homeless problem is still needed.
* A plan to include ADA play structures In all future park planned.
* Housing opportunities for young teachers; housing support for our healthcare workers, teachers as many can't afford to get into a home and are forced to rent.
* Fixing the multitude of buckled sidewalks where folks with AFN find it hard to use.
* District 4, 93906, Natividad and thru the region…would like to sea (w) more accessible, green, communal spaces (for movement sharing via art, music, storytelling, etc. ; public transportation and support for people of all abilities and capacities (beyond doctoral and/or ‘professional’ lens) ; more ‘24/7’ centers weaving our communities
* A rent control policy to protect renters
* Removing parking minimums for future projects
* More parks north Salinas, community center
* More bikeways
* Rebuild East Alisal and Williams Roads, More parks
* Higher density housing in the vicinity of the large shopping centers is needed - ie Westridge, Northridge, Harden Ranch
* Kmart and Sears are all great sites for housing redevelopment
* Parks need maintenance in the Eastside, Natividad creek park really needs to bush trimming and maintenance.
* Climate resilient housing
* Build more childcare centers and support the building of Sanborn House recreation center in Acosta Plaza.
* Work with Salinas on supporting a comprehensive climate action plan
* Community energy hubs using different forms of distributed energy resources such as micro grids
* Additional farm worker housing so that our agriculture workers
* More solar requirements for businesses, homes
* Teams of paramedics and mental health professionals augment police calls. Saves lives and millions of dollars.
* Minimize ‘development’ on more land, (if anything) build up (aligning w climate impact, o.c.) AND ¡¡LAND BACK in practice — center indigenous perspectives + experience + guidance (across boarder lines—- including immigrants displaced from their native land) \* transforming ‘vacant’ buildings into community centers, rinks, learning ~cultural-expression hubs where we may:

— SUPPORT mutual aid funds and efforts

— UPLIFTING community in sharing their expertise and offer compensation (no degrees or certifications needed)

**Built Environment:**

* How can we determine traffic improvement? Based on the number of complaints by residents? The number of traffic accidents? What gauges are in place or need to be put in place to measure the quality of traffic flow?
* best thing we can do is enact actions to take away the need for single occupancy vehicle trips through good urban design, efficient and accessible transit routes, and safe and intuitive bike routes.
* A bit outdated at this point, but one of our (MBEP) recommendations to making housing more affordable in our region is to reduce parking requirements. One parking spot in a new development typically costs $20,000 - which would be much better utilized towards building more homes.
* More senior housing near Alliance on Aging Senior Services HUB and meaningful partnerships made with orgs like ITN and other CBOs. Also look more into ride and home-share programs to fill out areas where development might be lacking or slowed down. Widespread collaboration and community education to democratize the whole process is also key.

What stood out to you? ¿Qué te llamó la atención?

* Historical data provides the framework.
* Maps that express existing conditions/future conditions
* Monterey county has a large food insecurity problem
* Ties in to housing
* Annexation map
* Low density developments/Mixed use developments
* Higher density in downtown
* Limit co2 emissions by improving built environment
* Parking minimum requirement
* Lack of affordable housing/ housing over crowding

What's something you want to change? ¿Qué es algo que quieres cambiar?

* Housing cost burden – Keeping it below 30%
* Agriculture industry to pay living wage
* Opportunities for entrepreneurs
* Diversify economy
* Higher density and smaller homes
* Developing a space for homeless community
* Short term/ long term solutions
* Safe and healthy housing/ quality housing
* Using vacant retail lots for small business/ small living spaces / youth center
* Housing that is sustainable with air circulation
* Passive house, 1/10 of cost of house to maintain
* More upfront cost
* Mixed use development at sears building.

What other information would you want? ¿Qué otra información desea?

* Provide a list of vacant lots in the city/ under-utilized land
* Existing climate conditions in the city
* Information from a transit perspective

**Socioeconomic System:**

What stood out to you? ¿Qué te llamó la atención?

* Steve Carrigan – join to here from the people that have lived here all their lives and to learn and listen – anything that
* Alma Loredo – Spanish – she joins this session because education is fundamental for the future
* Cesar Lara – Economic development is important for jobs and helps the rest of the
* Omar – longtime resident
* Chris S. - business owner/resident - taxes and job
* Patty – lived in Salinas for 30 years, retired economic development - inspired by the arts and culture of this pillar
* Laura – workforce development/economic development is the driver -
* Samuel Klemek – deputy fire chief 25 plus years working for the City of Salinas
* Employment and Industry:
* Omar – two things stood out – the average median income below county and state, City of Salinas is the biggest City in the county – wants to highlight how do we engage our residents to get involve in other industry, education and workforce and there for increase their income and improve their quality of life (Ag tech)

**What is something we would like to change?**

* Cesar – health care and construction are default industries - what can we do to introduce a new economy.
* Lisa – where does small business come into play in this economy
* Cesar – small business is run by family and tend to hire own
* Members
* Cesar – partnership between City and County – workforce development board
* Omar – education and the skill sets/levels to have other industries interest into come into the city
* Chris – welcoming team (chamber, city, county) for industries
* Safety, Education, and Jobs and how we use land use

**What defines our future – health and safety**

* Cesar - Public safety view in the built environment – Parks, Sidewalk, lights along street
* Omar - preventative services – how to prevent crime, food insecurity, poverty
* Alma – insecurity of housing – rent is to high, people need to work in order to make a living and during this pandemic, people with COVID had to go out and work because they need to make rent/mortgage.
* Laura – one challenge is the home prices/ mortgages are so expensive and the need to for multi family living in single family household – create density, creates congestion, which create problem after problem.
* Omar – Climate change and the effects on safety/health of our city – fires, flooding create.

**Arts and Culture**

* Arts and culture are a driver to the economy
* Chris – Sherwood gets it open again
* Steve – more murals (underpass) - connect with Caltrans; murals at the boxing gym at Closter park.
* Cesar – many of the murals were done by youth (workforce development board)
* Omar - Entertainment centers to allow performance (large), live music (more employment, more revenue)

**Natural Systems:**

* Need more trees in the streets, more shades.
* Put greenery in our parking lots.
* Motivate the community to maintain clean, green yards that don't require much maintenance. Public education programs starting with the elementary school age kids helps to carry the message to the adults at home.
* More trash receptacles to prevent littering
* The blighted conditions surrounding homeless encampments is a health concern that needs more resources dedicated to addressing the problem, especially around waterways.
* Programs that help with gathering rainwater and other ways to recycle ♻️ water in homes, also composed in home yards. Keep needles out of park playgrounds.

What stood out to you? ¿Qué te llamó la atención?

* Open spaces and parks
* Green streets in the City
* Stormwater Pollution mitigation
* Rebuilding buildings, programs like vouchers/stipends to remodel and organize buildings to add green spaces on their property
* More trees are needed on streets more shades

What's something you want to change? ¿Qué es algo que quieres cambiar?

* Hiring Maintenance personell, training for job duties
* Put more green spaces in parking lots
* Including programs in K-12 schools to educate on green and natural systems
* Motivate community to maintain clean, green yards with minimal maintenance requirements
* Water systems and drains to allow for proper drainage
* More trash receptacles to prevent littering
* More green spaces in developments

What other information would you want? ¿Qué otra información desea?

* Programs for children and youth
* Improving housing conditions
* Blighted conditions surrounding homeless encampments around waterways and investing in more resources to address the issue
* Programs that help with gathering rainwater and other ways to recycle ♻️ water in homes, also composed in home yards.
* Keep needles out of parks/playgrounds, have proper disposable bins
* Master list of current developments happening
* Creating more exposure surrounding Volunteer programs opportunities in the community
* Current water supply status for the City
* Big Sur Land Trust Projects