

COMPTON | COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

FALL/WINTER, 2010-11

REBIRTH OF DOWNTOWN COMPTON

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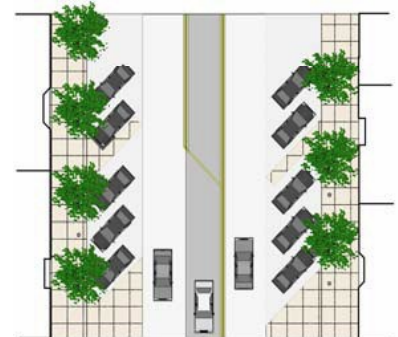
The City of Compton Redevelopment Agency (Agency) is focusing on revitalizing Downtown Compton through its Smart Growth Implementation Plan. The vision for Downtown Compton is to become a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and inviting destination for both residents and visitors. This “Main Street” strategy encompasses Compton Boulevard between Willowbrook and Santa Fe, and will involve the creation of a streetscape improvement plan to beautify the area and make it more pedestrian-friendly.

Currently, Compton Boulevard serves as an auto-dominated thoroughfare with double-lane traffic and limited crosswalks. There is an abundance of pedestrian traffic with the Metro Blue Line station, new residential

development, County Courthouse and City Hall nearby.

One proposed idea is to close down one lane in each direction, widen the sidewalks and add head-in street parking (photo on right). The installation of a landscaped center median, additional canopy trees, and new lighting would further enhance the environs.

The proposed design concept would have a traffic calming effect by reducing vehicular speed, moderating pollution and making the area more environmentally sustainable. In turn, area businesses would receive greater patronage, providing a net economic benefit to the Compton community.



Above: Conceptual drawings of Compton Blvd. between Alameda and Santa Fe.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- New Pocket Parks on the way.
- Commuting on public transit increases the bottom line.
- New housing for a New Compton.
- Downtown Revitalization to improve pedestrian and shopping experience.

THE HUB OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Agency is in the process of implementing the community’s vision of a revitalized Downtown Compton, that cultivates a sense of place and has various activities for residents while promoting local business. The Agency’s efforts include working with community-based organizations to encourage and support public meetings in the Downtown region. For more information, call (310) 605-5511.

Downtown Compton is the heart of the City. Current redevelopment projects are underway that will help facilitate this transformation and make Downtown Compton more of a destination for residents.

feature



MLK TRANSIT CENTER

The new Martin Luther King Jr. Transit Center (MLKTC) located on Willowbrook, north of Compton Blvd (pictured right) is currently under construction and scheduled to open in early 2011. The MLKTC reconstruction project will include a new multi-level parking structure and will offer improved pedestrian access to bus and train services. The new building will house the Regional Bus Transit

System, Dial-A-Ride Service, Dial-A-Taxi Service, Park and Ride and Bus Layover Facilities. The new transit village will incorporate a new plaza and enhance pedestrian access to nearby shopping centers and City Hall. Although the construction process is temporarily inconvenient to commuters, the payoff will be a more seamless integration between train, bus, walking, bike riding, and personal vehicle use. The new MLK



Transit Center will be an important step in building a new Downtown Compton that serves the needs of a growing, diverse, and connected community.

A TRANSIT RICH COMMUNITY

Unlike many other areas in Southern California, downtown Compton affords good access to public transportation. There are many pedestrians in the area year-round, and transferring between train and bus will be even easier when the new transit center is complete. Easy access to automobile-free commuting offers quality of life benefits to the commu-

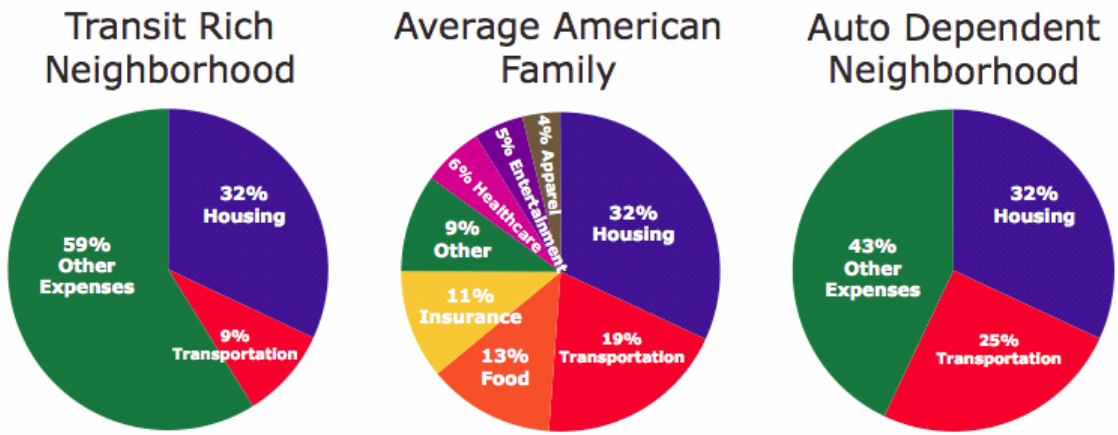
nity, especially lower transportation expenses.

Because they spend less of their income on commuting, households in neighborhoods with public transit have more money to spend on other things. As shown in the figure below, in a typical transit-rich neighborhood, residents only spend about 9 percent of their budget on transportation, compared to residents

of auto-dependent neighborhoods, who spend 25 percent of their income on transportation. This adds a layer of affordability to the downtown area and the city in general.

Improved sidewalks, crosswalks, and parking will hopefully encourage residents to get out of their cars and frequent the area on foot – and save money!

The payoff of the new MLK Transit Center will be a more seamless integration between train and bus, walking and biking.



Source: Center for TOD Housing + Transportation Affordability Index, 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW LIVING AREAS

A number of new residential buildings have recently been constructed around Downtown Compton, attracting new residents to the city and helping to encourage further Downtown development activity. Willow Walk homes, located at the corner of Willowbrook and Elm in North

Downtown Compton (pictured here), was recently completed and offers spacious, family-friendly townhomes in the heart of downtown. Willow Walk is nicely situated directly across from the Metro Blue Line rail stop, and immediately adjacent to the new MLKTC.



Alameda Court Homes, located at the corner of Alameda and Myrrh, is a newly constructed townhome community offering an array of family homes

and shared living areas. Alameda Court offers a number of units with retail space on the street level and living quarters above, and a community room that can be used for family gatherings and association meetings. Homes are currently for sale, with special offers available.

A PLACE TO GATHER

Compton residents have repeatedly expressed interest in having a family-friendly downtown area to frequent, with nice restaurants and retail shops. They would like to see a safe and vibrant “main street” that provides a sense of place and encourages community activities.

The Smart Growth vision for Downtown Compton incorporates the input of residents and other stakeholders. A series of *charrettes* over the last few years, combined with ongoing public stakeholder meetings, have helped the citizenry of Compton be in-



involved first-hand in the planning process. To learn more about these meetings, please contact the Agency.

Through the improvement of building facades and pedestrian corridors (example above), the new main street will promote commerce, at-

tract new businesses and provide jobs. By improving landscaping, planting trees, and narrowing the boulevard, the new Downtown Compton will become more of a destination than a commuting route.

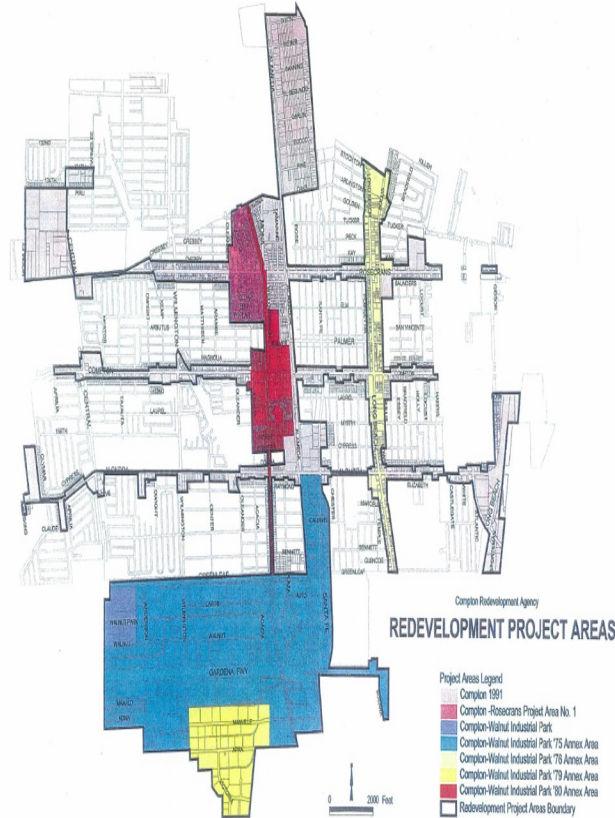
Compton residents have repeatedly expressed interest in having a family friendly downtown area to visit, including nice restaurants and retail shops.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

We are on the web! Visit us at:
www.comptoncity.org
www.smartcompton.com

Redevelopment Project Area Map

COMPTON CITY HALL
205 S. Willowbrook Ave.
Compton, CA 90220
Phone: 310-605-5511
Fax: 310-637-3484



CRA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Community Redevelopment Agency is to expand and diversify the economic base of the community by eliminating neighborhood blight, assembling land for the utilization of job-producing and revenue-generating retail, commercial and industrial developments, while fostering homeownership opportunities, ultimately creating a viable and sustainable community that enhances the quality of life for our residents and business community.



POCKET PARK PROGRAM

What will be done with all of the vacant lots around the City, some surrounded by an unattractive chain-link fence?

The Agency is in the process of clearing Redevelopment Agency-owned parcels through its Pocket Park Program. By demolishing vacant structures, sites are prepared for future development, while ensuring the safety of the community and discouraging crime.

By converting vacant lots into temporary pocket parks, the Agency removes blight throughout the City and enables the community to enjoy the parks.

Many vacant and underutilized lots have already been improved throughout the City, providing attractive additions to Compton's neighborhoods.

If you have any questions regarding the Pocket Park Program, please call the Community Redevelopment Agency at (310) 605-5511



Above: Pocket Park located on Compton Boulevard