Welcome

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Introduction to Bigger Picture

SPUR’s Bigger Picture series proposes ideas for key locations in San Francisco, San José and Oakland, the Bay Area’s three largest cities. Each exploration represents an opportunity to tackle major regional challenges through local planning processes. And, conversely, each suggests how big investments in infrastructure can — if planned carefully — bring about positive transformation for the immediate neighborhood.
Embedding Equity and Resilience

The starting point

The process

The Bigger Picture Series

Four Future Scenarios for the San Francisco Bay Area

Model Places

Selection

Exploration

Development

Seven Ideas for Downtown San José

Five Ideas for Transforming the San Francisco Waterfront

https://www.spur.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/SPUR_Future_Scenarios_for_the_SF_Bay_Area.pdf
Ideation + Engagement

SPUR Board and Stakeholder Idea Selection

City workshops  ➔  SPUR City Board Reviews  ➔  Key Stakeholder Engagements

200+ participants
Our Vision for Oakland Infrastructure

A framework for inclusiveness that guides the planning and design of the next generation of infrastructure for Oakland will engender growth and prosperity for the local neighborhoods as well as the broader region.

Equitable community planning includes the following elements:

- Renter protections (eviction protections, acquisition)
- Affordable housing development (public sites, value capture, TIF)
- Homeownership + wealth generation (foreclosure protection, loan funds)
- Small-business protection/construction mitigation
- Authentic community engagement
Our Vision for Oakland Infrastructure

Oakland is among the most interconnected parts of the region and retains its regionally distinct racial, cultural and economic identity as it grows and prospers. Major investments to repair the climate, restore public life and create a just city have put freeways and trains underground, enabling communities that were once segregated by infrastructure to reconnect and reclaim their neighborhoods. The pollution, noise, and speeding cars of the past landscape are a fading memory, along with the environmental and health disparities they once produced.
Oakland Infrastructure Landscape Today
Oakland Infrastructure Landscape Today

Scenario: 5.5ft SLR plus 100-year storm 2090 timeframe
Medium/High Risk Aversion; High Emissions Scenario

Scenario: 8.25ft SLR plus 100-year storm 2090 timeframe
H++: High Emissions Scenario
Why This Idea Matters

Our region’s transportation infrastructure - including major freeways, freight lines, and rail transit - was largely constructed throughout the 20th century, and in many ways created the Bay Area that we know today. This infrastructure connects our nine counties (and 101 cities), enables the flow of goods from outside and within the region, and is a major driver of economic growth.

Three existential threats that must be addressed:

1. Negative externalities for public health and local communities,

2. Lack of coordination and capacity, and

3. Vulnerability to failure due to age, sea level rise, and earthquakes.
The Future of Rail in Oakland
10 Ideas to ensure Oakland benefits from Regional Transportation Investment

1. Develop an anti-displacement, racial equity framework to guide the next set of regional transportation investments.
2. Build a second transbay crossing.
3. Build an Oakland Regional Rail Hub.
4. Ensure Oakland’s land use plans support the infrastructure investments of tomorrow.
5. Underground or cap I-980.
6. Underground parts of I-880 and freight infrastructure.
7. Utilize unlocked space to reconnect Oakland, improve the housing affordability crisis, and support inclusive development.
8. Add a new passenger rail tunnel through Downtown Oakland.
9. Design transportation investments as resiliency investments, and protect existing infrastructure.
10. Prioritize projects that support walking, cycling, and other sustainable modes of transportation.
Our Vision for Downtown San José

By 2070, downtown San José has become a dense, thriving urban center, anchored by the Guadalupe River Park. A new regional rail hub brings people from across town and across the state, activating the city and the park day and night. Steelhead salmon run in the Guadalupe River once again, highlighting the park’s restored ecology and offering children and families the chance to reconnect with nature. The green spaces surrounding the river attract picnickers, cyclists, families and employees from nearby offices.
Our Vision for Downtown San José

Downtown San José
Downtown continues to grow and thrive thanks to enhanced connections to Diridon and Guadalupe River Park.

Downtown West
Google’s transit village of offices, housing, retail and cultural spaces integrates seamlessly with Diridon Station to encourage transit use.
Downtown San José Today
Downtown San José Today
Why This Place Matters
Seven Ideas for Transforming Downtown San José

1. Complete Planned Projects
2. Tame State Route 87
3. Go Big on Diridon Station
4. Invest in Guadalupe River Park
5. Build out Downtown West
6. Turn SAP Center into a Downtown Entertainment Center
7. Implement Congestion Pricing
Our Vision to Transform the San Francisco Waterfront

In 2070, life in San Francisco is more tied to the waterfront than ever. From Yosemite Slough in the southeast, north along the Embarcadero and Presidio, westward to Ocean Beach and south to Fort Funston, continuous public access welcomes everyone to see and enjoy one of the world’s greatest urban waterfronts. Neighborhoods that suffered from disinvestment and were cut off from their waterfronts now offer residents direct connections to the water’s edge without the need for a car. Significant investments have been made in multi-function infrastructure that balances competing needs to respond to sea-level rise, improve urban ecosystems and enhance living conditions for local communities. Restoration projects have returned the waterways to their natural state and repaired their ecological health.
Our Vision to Transform the San Francisco Waterfront
The Waterfront Today

>6% of land area at risk of flooding across San Francisco

Scenario: 5.5ft SLR plus 100-year storm
2090 timeframe
Medium/High Risk Aversion; High Emissions Scenario

Scenario: 8.25ft SLR plus 100-year storm
2090 timeframe
H++: High Emissions Scenario
Why This Place Matters

+75,000 housing units and
+150,000 jobs over 30 years
Components of the Idea

1. Complete Planned Projects with the Bigger Picture in Mind
2. Provide Waterfront Access From Every Neighborhood
3. Plan, Budget and Deliver Long-Term Climate Protection
4. Invest in Resilient Shoreline and Watershed Restoration
5. Create a Seamless, Car-Free Public Waterfront
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Up: Mission Rock, one of several major development projects underway along San Francisco’s waterfront.

Left: San Francisco’s southeastern shoreline is undergoing rapid transformation, with opportunity to reimagine how people can access the waterfront without a car.

Photos by Sergio Ruiz