



# Why Economic Development is Important to the PRCC





## Why Have We Asked You Here Today?

#### SHAPING OUR FUTURE

# "Now Let's Get To Work!"

- Gina Fitzpatrick

# **Key Note Speaker**

MAYOR STEVE MARTIN

#### SHAPING OUR FUTURE

## **Diving In...** DON MARUSKA SUMMIT FACILITATOR

# What are Your Hopes for the Paso Robles Economy?

- 1. WRITE ONE HOPE PER BOX
- 2. MARK MOST COMPELLING WITH AN "\*"
- 3. BE PREPARED TO SHARE WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

	YOUR HOPES	WHY IMPORTANT TO YOU?
	Clean-up north side of Paso	Hidden gem, improve morale of town, first impressions, gateway
	Better understanding of entire economic impact of wine industry – not just wine	Wine industry is 1.9 billion
	Acquire boys school – dry creek utilities – airport development	HOH jobs, commerce, diversification for city
	Preserve values and quality of life for Paso	Don't become too rich, too white, and too old
	Entice tech industry – tap into cal Poly for workforce	Jobs in Paso
	Performing arts center/ conference center	Complement other things going on. Diversity population and economy
	Recruitment	40% of employees live in Paso.

YOUR HOPES	WHY IMPORTANT TO YOU?
Improved transportation	Options for employees to get to work
Tech	more
Hotels – attract workforce	Full employment
Establish stronger ties with business community in Paso Robles (with Cal Poly)	Tech transfer – leads to new businesses and diversification – alternative to silicon valley
Make and market Paso as a place to do business	Grow companies in Paso so they don't leave - diversify

YOUR HOPES	WHY IMPORTANT TO YOU?				
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#### **Balanced Economy**

- Issues
  - Too much emphasis on wine and hospitality
  - Service sector = entry level wages
  - Need to diversify economy to better weather potential future economic downturns

"The biggest thing that concerns me in this area is if we become too dependent on wine. I fear something coming in and ruining all the grapes

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#### **Balanced Economy**

- Potential Opportunities
  - Attract small scale manufacturing
  - Support businesses that have the potential to grow
  - Prioritize the development and growth of local non-service sector businesses
  - Grow businesses that support wine and tourism such as food, beverages, and tangible goods (e.g. wine bottles)

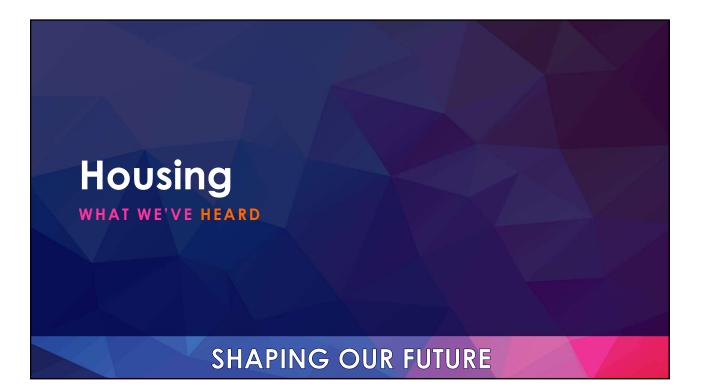


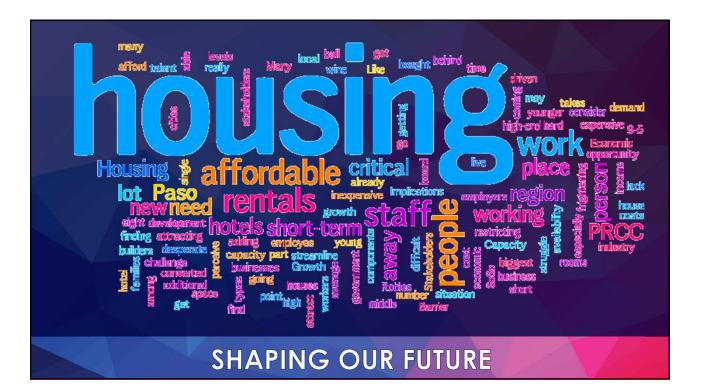




#### Engaging you on Balanced Economy

- What additional issues need attention? (Please write them with black marker on yellow sheets – one issue per sheet.)
- 2. What additional opportunities would you suggest to address the topic? (Please write them with black marker on green sheets one opportunity per sheet.)
- 3. Discuss at your table as time permits.







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## Housing

- Issues
  - Housing is expensive
  - Need all levels of housing
  - A recent increase in number of short term rentals = lack of long term rentals
  - Current lack of affordable housing is limiting growth

#### Housing

#### Potential Opportunities

- Work with government and builders to streamline housing development in the region
- Advocate for housing develop a coalition of supporters
- Break Specific Plan areas into smaller areas
- Reduce "upfront" costs to build homes
- Use a portion of TOT revenue to fund "affordable" housing projects

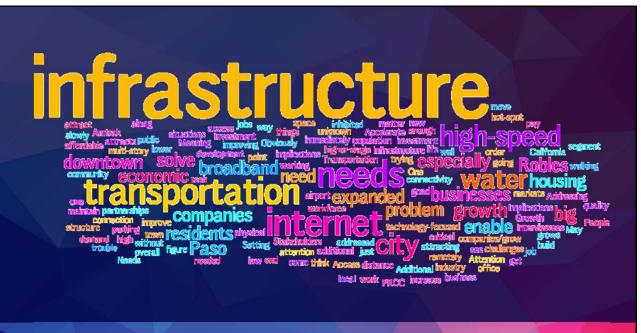




## Engaging you on Housing

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"Access to high-speed internet needs to be addressed at some point. Can you hot-spot the downtown?"

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#### Infrastructure

- Issues
  - Water availability
  - Parking in downtown
  - High-speed internet
  - Provision of infrastructure may accelerate growth

#### Infrastructure

#### Potential Opportunities

- Invest in expanded broadband infrastructure
- Make downtown a wireless "hot spot"
- Ensure infrastructure is provided commensurate with growth
- Use other people's existing resources: Amtrak, Uber, Lyft
- Link hotels to downtown via trolley/bus route

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#### Engaging you on Infrastructure

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#### Workforce

#### Issues

- Employers are not able to find highly skilled employees
- Brain drain talented local youth are leaving
- Employees are underemployed especially in the medium tier skill level
- Unable to attract talent

**70%** of survey responders feel that finding qualified people is a significant or major problem in their industry

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#### Workforce

- Potential Opportunities
  - Leverage the livability of the City to attract skilled employees and entrepreneurs
  - Investigate opportunities to prevent brain drain, like developing vocational programs or higher education extension programs
  - Recruit talent from regional and state colleges and universities
  - Recruit graduates from Cal Poly that have a fondness for the area
  - Offer career-matching services to help skilled workers find jobs

#### Workforce

**91%** of survey responders feel that improved job and skill training with local educational institutions will help them overcome their workforce challenges

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## Workforce ISSUE AND ACTION DISCUSSION

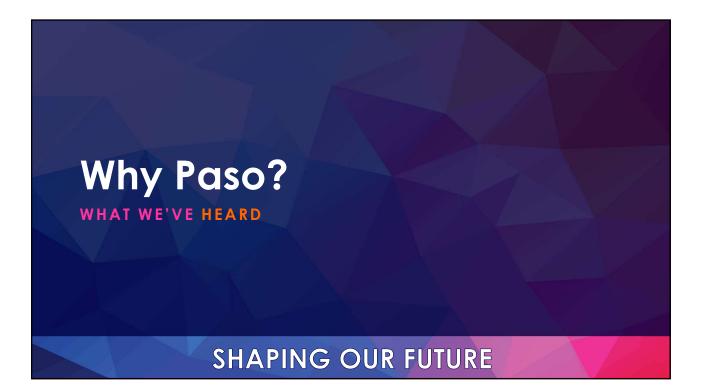
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"The new city manager is exceptional and is very supportive of economic development..."

- Tom Frutchy





## "Why would someone want to locate a business or live in Paso Robles?"

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## Why Paso?

- Issues
  - Housing cost
  - Hot climate
  - Perception of a water problem
  - \$40 tasting fees
  - Lack of Costco/Whole Foods/Trader Joes
  - Not enough family restaurants
  - Region is too SLO focused
  - Downtown parking
  - Cultural divide

- Lack of head-of-household jobs
- Region is remote hard to access
- State regulations
- Growth = traffic and congestion
- Lack of cohesive brand
- Relatively unknown outside of SLO County/CA

#### Why Paso?

#### Potential Opportunities

- Create a co-working space
- Expedite convention center
- Develop business incentives
- Grow gourmet food industry food start-up academy
- Grow number of breweries BrewPaso
- Cyber security
- Supportive city government and staff
- Developable land available
- Good location between LA, SF, and Central Valley
- Capitalize on airport

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## Why Paso? ISSUE AND ACTION DISCUSSION

#### Organizing for Results

What do you think will be the key factors for success in strategic planning for economic development to Shape Our Future?

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#### Prioritizing Issues and Opportunities

- 1. Use orange dots to identify the most important issues to resolve for a successful future.
- 2. Use green dots to identify the most desirable opportunities.

#### Call to Action – Paso Needs YOU!

#### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PASO MOVE FORWARD?

- □ Keep me informed
- Add ideas after today
- Help develop specific action items
- □ Support the Chamber's advocacy
- □ Identify other people and organizations to help
- □ Join a Business Walk
- Offer other help



