

CARSON 2040

VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A vision is an aspirational description of what the community would like to be in the future. It is a summary of the shared goals to be achieved by the Carson General Plan. The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles are based on input from the community, developed through stakeholder interviews, a community workshop and pop-up outreach, General Plan Advisory Committee meetings, City Council and Planning Commission workshops, and an online community survey.

Vision

Carson is a “21st century city” that embraces technology, sustainability, and innovation to enhance community livability and quality of life. Carson in 2040 is a vibrant and energetic place to live, work, and play. Residents have access to quality and affordable housing, multi-modal transportation, and services. The city’s corridors have been revitalized with attractive streetscapes, pedestrian- and bicycle- friendly amenities, and strategically located new development with inviting spaces for working, living, learning, dining, gathering, and recreation. Carson has maintained its diversity and inclusiveness, and worked to provide equitable development throughout the city. The City has maintained positive business attributes, experienced job growth and development that enhances the economy, provides jobs for Carson residents, and creates a fiscally-sound local government.



Guiding Principles



Embrace development and technology that fosters an adaptable, modern city.

As Carson's demographics and economy evolve, the city welcomes new technologies that complement an adaptive environment, such as public infrastructure for electric or autonomous vehicles, ride-sharing, wireless communication, and renewable energy. The General Plan encourages the development of flexible spaces that can adapt to changing patterns in population, retail trends, and job production. The "Future Unlimited" city will be promoted as a 21st century city that leverages new industries and ideas to shape the city of the future.



Promote vibrant, walkable mixed-use districts and neighborhoods, and revitalized corridors.

The General Plan promotes "complete neighborhoods" with a range of everyday amenities within easy distances, and a richer array of activities and uses in all parts of the city. Districts and buildings should accommodate a diversity of complementary uses, including mixed flexible office space, retail, dining, residential, hotels, and other compatible uses, to foster vibrant, walkable, 21st century environments. Public amenities are incorporated into mixed-used districts that are attractive to residents, workers, and students. The Plan aims to extend the energy of the successes of Carson Street's redevelopment to other major corridors, such as Avalon Boulevard, Main Street, Del Amo Boulevard, and Broadway. The General Plan promotes densities that foster revitalization, while ensuring development scale and building heights are compatible with surrounding uses.





3

Provide a diverse array of housing types to meet the needs of all segments of the community.

The General Plan encourages and enables the development of a mix of housing types that provide Carson residents access to a full range of housing opportunities. Carson will meet its need for new housing to support future population growth and ensure that affordable and market-rate housing needs are met. Housing will be available across generations so that new residents, aging residents, workers, students, and families have access to quality and affordable housing. New housing can be provided on large, vacant opportunity sites, as well as through the rehabilitation or redevelopment of older, lower-quality housing. The General Plan also seeks to promote live-work places in transitioning industrial districts.

4

Support a diversified economy with a range of employment opportunities for all residents and a fiscally-sound local government.

The General Plan promotes a diversified economic base and seeks to capitalize on Carson’s location and assets—strong industrial economy, access to major freeways, rail corridors, airports, and the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and the presence of California State University Dominguez Hills—by supporting and assisting business development and mitigating constraints to economic investment. The Plan identifies opportunity sites in a variety of infill locations and large vacant lots that can attract hotel, office, industrial, and research and development uses, which in turn will provide jobs and help the City achieve fiscal sustainability. More jobs will be created within Carson, enhancing social and economic mobility for residents and reducing need for commuting into and out of the city.



Guiding Principles



5

Encourage development of regional-scale destinations, as well as neighborhood-serving retail and amenities.

Carson has a unique opportunity to develop a retail, entertainment, and hospitality destination center to serve the entire South Bay region at the confluence of the region's two major freeways—I-405 and I-110—an area historically dominated by landfills, waste transfer, recycling and other similar uses, where environmental remediation is nearly complete. Complementing this, the General Plan locates new neighborhood mixed-use centers to enhance resident access to neighborhood-serving stores, restaurants and other commercial uses that are presently (2018) principally clustered along Carson Street, at great distances from many neighborhoods.



6

Foster harmony between industrial and residential land uses.

The extensive presence of industrial uses, including heavy industrial and logistics, in the community results in many edges of friction between these and directly adjacent residential neighborhoods. Air quality, noise, and truck traffic are some of the principal concerns. The General Plan promotes development along these edges to create buffers, and minimize noise and air pollution impacts on residents. It also explores the possibility of adjusting truck routes to limit areas of impacts on residential neighborhoods. Streetscapes along corridors will be enhanced in transition areas through planting of trees, attractive and visually consistent walls and fences, and high-quality design.





7

Improve public health and sustainability.

The General Plan addresses both the social and physical determinants of health. Public health is promoted through enhanced access to housing, education, and jobs; environmental remediation of sites; and minimizing exposure to hazardous materials. Carson will become a leader in clean industrial development with state-of-the-art facilities, pollution control measures, air quality monitoring, brownfield redevelopment, and renewable energy.

Greenhouse gas emissions from energy use and transportation—the two largest sources of emissions in Carson—are reduced by promoting green building techniques, renewable energy, and energy efficiency in new construction, and retrofit of existing buildings. The city will decrease its reliance on automobiles through increasing access to public and active transportation, and infrastructure improvements to promote for walking, biking, ride-sharing, autonomous vehicles, and zero emissions vehicles.



8

Promote development of a cohesive open space system.

The General Plan seeks to promote development of a cohesive urban open space system, anchored by an open space recreational corridor along Dominguez Channel, with pedestrian and bicycle linkages to surrounding neighborhoods and community parks. The General Plan supports a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities to serve all segments of the population, while ensuring that these facilities can be maintained over time. As the city grows, Carson will provide adequate park and recreational facilities for both an increased population and changing demographics. New open spaces may be created through extending the concept of the public realm with new open space developed as plazas, privately-owned public open spaces, publicly-owned park facilities, multi-use paths, and greenways.



Guiding Principles



Enhance the public realm and promote quality design.

A cohesive image for Carson can be cultivated through consistent streetscapes, improved sidewalks, well-maintained landscaping, and building design integrated with the public realm and providing “eyes on the street”. Design diversity and visual richness are encouraged by promoting a variety of architectural building styles, discouraging new sound walls, and promoting high-quality design.



Emphasize a diversity of transportation modes and choices.

The General Plan incorporates the development of “Complete Streets,” which aims to improve connectivity, accessibility, and safety for all modes of transportation, and promotes redesign of arterials that traverse the city to promote bicycle movement and easier pedestrian crossings. New roadway and pedestrian connections will result in less circuitous traffic, and help connect neighborhoods to schools, daily services, recreation, and other amenities, and key destinations such as the Del Amo Blue Line Station and the Carson Street corridor. Pedestrian safety can be improved through crosswalks, bulbouts, and signal timing.

