



Southside Plan History

The Draft Southside Plan was first published in January of 2000. Jointly sponsored and prepared by the City of Berkeley and the University of California at Berkeley, the Draft Southside Plan developed specific policies regarding land use, housing, traffic and circulation, economic development, public safety, urban design, and historic preservation.

After publication of the January 2000 Southside Draft Plan, the Draft Plan was reviewed and refined through a series of community (working group) meetings and discussions spearheaded by Planning Commission and supported by city staff. More specifically, the Planning Commission created the Southside Plan Subcommittee and held further public meetings to review elements of the Draft Southside Plan closely. Comments and discussion held during these meetings informed the 2001 Draft Southside Plan (the Subcommittee Draft).

The 2001 Draft Southside Plan was then further reviewed by the full Planning Commission. In the spring and summer of 2003, the Planning Commission considered additional changes and amendments – resulting in the 2003 Draft Southside Plan. The environmental review of the 2003 Southside Draft Plan began in 2004, with the release of the Notice of Preparation, and the DEIR was completed in 2008. The DEIR had a 90-day review period, from April 1, 2008, through June 30, 2008.

In 2008, once the DEIR was completed, the Planning Commission directed staff to review the 2003 Draft Southside Plan and, as necessary, update outdated or inconsistent policies and zoning recommendations, review text for consistency with policies, and add updates to the text. This resulted in the 2009 Draft Southside Plan. As a result of this process, staff identified proposed changes that would require explicit Planning Commission approval. These issues were discussed at four Planning Commission Southside Plan Subcommittee meetings in the summer of 2009 and the fall of 2010; final direction on these issues were given at the December 8, 2010, Planning Commission meeting. The direction from this meeting resulted in the 2011 Draft Southside Plan.

On April 6, 2011, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to review the 2011 Draft Southside Plan and related documents. At that meeting, the Planning Commission voted to forward the Plan, proposed Zoning Ordinance, Map amendments, General Plan amendments, and the FEIR to the Council - with a recommendation for approval. At this time, the Planning Commission also approved the Southside Design Guidelines.

The City Council held a workshop on June 14, 2011, to discuss the Southside Plan and associated documents. On September 27, 2011 the City Council held a public hearing and approved the Southside Plan and associated documents with minor modifications. The Southside Design Guidelines were also made effective September 27, 2011.