General Themes of Workshop Comments:

- **Trees**: The majority of people were in favor of saving as many redwood trees as possible, with a portion protesting the removal of any tree and a portion expressing understanding that some trees may need to be removed to achieve a good design. Pruning redwood trees for safety and visibility was discussed.

- **Hinton and Exchange Streets**: People varied in support of one- or two-lane roads, but the majority was in favor of the roads being one-way in direction. The need for places to drop off children and the elderly was expressed.

- **Parking**: Opinions varied on how much parking, if any, should be provided. Some attendees wanted spaces on each side of Hinton and Exchange, some wanted spaces on only one side, some wanted spaces along Third and Fourth Streets, and some wanted none. Existing downtown parking opportunities, metered parking, and future opportunities for free parking were discussed.

- **Events and Uses**: In general, attendees expressed interest in a designed space which allows for flexibility in use, ranging from accommodating existing downtown events to providing opportunities for new events. Some events and uses that were mentioned: food trucks and vendors, artists, performances, markets, concerts, etc. Also, desires for the designed space to feel welcoming for general, every day use and for there to be play opportunities for kids were expressed.

- **Character**: The terms "world-class," "green space," "family friendly," "safe," "feel like Santa Rosa," and "park-like" were used often by various attendees when describing what they'd like for the designed space. Concerns about homeless encampments and vandalism were discussed.

Recorded Comments

- Not Santa Rosa without large trees. Need to keep trees.
- Redwoods are important
- Don’t cut down redwoods for parking, cars will affect ambiance
- Trees decreasing in Sonoma, especially redwoods.
- Repurpose redwood for furnishings if they are removed – use local mill
- Need visibility to businesses – redwoods block views
- Appropriate places for redwoods to be, not in downtown. Don’t provide shade.
- Incorporate trees but some may need to go
- Barnes & Noble would not have come without street parking and pruning redwood trees
- Should start with tree-centric planning process
- Keep old Courthouse Square street names
- Streets didn’t work before
- Make parking work for disabled
- People waiting for parking space could block/back-up traffic
- Don’t agree with need for parking spaces
- Single row of parking on each side
- Parking can be flexible space, should favor retail
- Free parking will guarantee no parking because no one leaves space
- Parking meters allow for available spaces
- City needs free parking
- Businesses would move to square if there was parking
- Direct access to park/square is important for elderly and picnics
- Hopefully in future won’t need much parking, but now we do
- Parking important to me but with downtown plan consider how it relates
- Increase public transit for those who cannot drive
- Flexible spaces allow parking to be shut down whenever needed
- Need parking on west side of square
- Need parking streets to be one lane
- Need Parking
Courthouse Square Reunification
Attendee Comments – Recorded by Presenters on Large Sheets
Public Workshop #1 – December 12, 2015

- 87% travel in cars
- People will not lease spaces without street parking
- Empire Building very hard to lease because no parking and is landlocked
- Two-way side parking creates more activity
- Drop off for senior access
- Believe retail is changing, parking may not be needed

- Build for people, retail will follow
- Make plaza welcoming the other 6 days without special events
- Winter lights – 3000+ people
- How to accommodate large groups
- "Nothing changes without changes"
- Heart of Santa Rosa
- Eyes on square
- Traffic is loud
- Should have place for petanque (crushed stone surface)
- CHS doesn’t currently provide open flexible space that works for large events (Farmer’s Markets, Winter Lights)
- Walkability leads to retail which leads to employment opportunities
- Public bathrooms
- Flexible space for entertainment/dining/art/events/every day use
- Need venues for artist events, currently difficult to attract young, creative people and families
- Need ordinances/permitting opportunities that allow for food (vendors, food trucks) and entertainment (artists, festivals, markets, performances)
- Downtown Market should be accommodated in the square – existing market blocks businesses
- Move banks upstairs to favor retail on ground floor
- Place for food trucks
- Need places and things for children – play features
- Reinstitute downtown “promenade”
- Current plan has “eyes on the square”

- Want to see a “world-class” space
- The plaza should have green space and feel like a park
- Green space in downtown allows for amenities for future residential developments
- Want it to feel like a park
- Native trees and planting
- Native/water-wise plants
- Keep it simple and flexible, simplified landscape
- More than set piece – make it vibrant
- Bring in culture & vibrancy
- Water-permeable areas
- Not aware of crime problem
- Skeptical of safety, vandalism (greenway issues)
- How will you guarantee safety and prevention of vandalism
- Need trees for summer shade
- Semi-permeable surfaces needed
- Summer shade/cooling

- No vitality currently
- Can be a great place
- Flavors is working
- A plan that helps everybody!
- Need everybody involved, center of Santa Rosa, needs to be great
- No center of town currently
- Boulder, CO has successful pedestrian mall
- 4th Street could be pedestrian mall
- How is completion by next year feasible?
- Where are Latino folks in this?
MORE THAN SET PIECE, MAKE IT VIBRANT
SOMETIMES NEED TO REMAIN

BUILD FOR PEOPLE, RETAIL WILL FOLLOW

* DON'T CUT DOWN REDWOODS FOR PLGS.
  CARS WILL EFFECT AMBIANCE

* MAKE PLAZA WELCOMING, THE OTHER
  6 DAYS W/O SPECIAL EVENTS

* HOW GUARANTEE SAFETY, VANDALISM

WINTER LIGHTS - 3000+ PEOPLE
HOW TO ACCOMODATE LARGE GROUPS
THINGS CHANGES W/O CHANGES
HEART OF SANTA ROSA
EYES ON SQUARE
REDWOODS BLOCK VIEWS
NATIVE/WATER-WISE PLANTS

* NEED VISIBILITY TO BUSINESSES—REDWOODS Block A Plan THAT HELPS EVERYBODY!
* APPROPRIATE PLACES FOR REDWOODS TO BE, NOT IN DOWNTOWN
  FREE PARKING WILL GUARANTEE NO PARKING 8/1
  NO ONE LEAVES SPACE.
  NEED EVERYBODY INVOLVED, CENTER OF SPACE, NEEDS TO BE GREAT

* KEEP IT SIMPLE & FLEXIBLE, SIMPLIFIED LANDSCAPE
  REDWOODS DON'T DO WELL IN S.P.O.A W/O LOTS OF WATER
  ALSO DROP LIMBS—SAFETY ISSUE

* NO CENTER OF TOWN
  PKS METERS ALLOW FOR AVAILABLE SPACES
  W/Flexible spaces can shut down PKS
  WHENEVER NEEDED
  Current plan has "EYES ON SQUARE"
Traffic is loud -

Bring in culture & vibrancy
- incorporate trees but some may need to go

Where are Latino folks in this?
Should have place for petanque (crushed stone surface)
Streets didn’t work before
Re-purpose redwood - use local mill
Make pkg work for disabled
Native trees & planting

People waiting for pkg could block traffic
Skeptical of safety, vandalism (greenway issues)
CHSQ doesn’t currently provide open flexible space
That works for large events (Winter Lights)
NOT SANTA ROSA W/O LARGE TREES

NO VITALITY CURRENTLY
- NEED PARKING PLACE FOR FOOD TRUCKS
- BARRIES & NURSE WOULD NOT COME IN W/O STREET PKG.
- NEEDED MAJOR PRUNING OR REDWOODS
- NOT STATE PARK REDWOODS NOT CONSISTENT W/ SPACE
- 87% OF PEOPLE TRAVEL IN CARS!
- PEOPLE WILL NOT LEASE SPACES W/O STREET MUCH PKGS, RC
- EMPIRE BLDG, VERY HARD TO LEAS B/C NO PARKING IS LANDLOCKED W/O PKGS ON W.SIDE NOT POINT IN PROJECT THOSE W/O

SINGLE ROW OF PKGS
WALKABILITY -> RETAIL
GREEN SPACE
PUBLIC BATH

RESIDENTIAL
WATER FERIES
WORLD CLASS
FLAVORS IS W/ ENTERTAIN

HOPFULLY IN PKG
PKG IMP. TO M CONSIDER HOW
INCREASE PKG

NEED THINGS FOR CHILDREN - PLAY FEATURES
SUMMER SHADE, COOLING

CAN BE A GREAT PLACE
2 WAY/SIDE PKGS CREATE MORE ACTIVITY DROP OFF. SENIOR'S ACCESS
SINGLE ROW OF PKG. EA. SIDE
WALKABILITY → RETAIL → EMPLOYMENT
GREEN SPACE: PARK-LIKE
PUBLIC BATHROOMS
RESIDENTIAL OPS IN FUTURE
WATER PEREEMABLE AREAS
WORLD CLASS SPACE
FLAVORS IS WORKING
ENTERTAINMENT/DINING/FLEXIBLE

* HOPEFULLY IN FUTURE WON'T NEED
* PKG IMP. TO ME BUT W/DOWN PLAN
* CONSIDER HOW IT RELATES
* INCREASES PUBLIC TRANSIT FOR
* THOSE WHO CANNOT DRIVE
* CHILDREN - PLAY FEATURES

KID'S COOLING
AT PLACE
PKG CREATES MORE ACTIVITY
SENIOR'S ACCESS

TD/HG
BOUNDARY
4' CUTOFF
NOT
KEEP PAVEMENT
OWN SPREAD
DOWN

* CITY
WOULDN'T WANT
DIRECT SEMI
RE-ROUTE
SHOULD

PKG OVER
REDWOOD
MOVE BRIDGE
KEEP OUT
TREES DECREASING
GIANT TREES FEEL LIKE SR
BOULDER CO HAS SUCCESSFUL PED MALL
PARKING SPACES - DON'T AGREE W/NEED FOR
1/2 ST COULD BE PED MALL
COMPLETION BY NEXT YEAR?
NEED TO KEEP TREES
NOT AWARE OF CRIME PROBLEM
KEEP TREES & REDUCE WIDTH OF SIDE STREETS
NEED PKG ON WEST SIDE OF SQUARE
NEED PKG STREETS TO ONE LANE
WANT TO FEEL LIKE PARK - LIKE SOMEPLACE FOR KIDS PLAY
ONE LANE ON SIDES - NEED TREES FOR SUMMER SHADE
SPEND $ ON HOMELESS - PROJECT NOT NEEDED
DOWNTOWN MARKET SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN SQUARE
- EXT'G 1/2 ST BUSINESSES GET BLOCKED BY MARKET BOOTH'S

CITY NEEDS FREE PKG
WOULD MOVE JEWELRY BUSINESS TO SQUARE IF STREETS/PKG
DIRECT ACCESS TO PARK/SQUARE IMPORTANT FOR ELDERLY & PICNICS
SEMI PERMEABLE SURFACE NEEDED
RE-INSTITUTE DOWNTOWN "PROMENADE"
SHOULD START W/ TREE CENTRIC PLANNING PROCESS
- SHOULD DESIGN WORLD CLASS SPACE
- BELIEVE RETAIL IS CHANGING (QUESTION PKG)
PKG CAN BE FLEXIBLE SPACE
- SHOULD FAVOR RETAIL
REDWOODS ARE IMPORTANT
MOVE BANKS UPSTAIRS TO FAVOR RETAIL ON GROUND FLOOR
KEEP OLD CHSQ STREET NAME(S)