

# **Environmental Justice Element May 16, 2023 Workshop Summary**

## **Introduction**

In 2018, the City of Commerce (“City”) launched efforts to update its General Plan, which establishes a framework for making land-use decisions that affect the quality of life in Commerce. One of the General Plan elements (chapters) focuses on Environmental Justice. Environmental justice, defined by the State of California, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” The May 16, 2023 workshop was held at the City of Commerce Senior Center, 2555 Commerce Way. The workshop was facilitated by urban planning consultants, MIG, and City staff. The workshop included a presentation and workshop activities.

The Environmental Justice workshop was advertised using both “high tech and high touch” methods. The workshop was advertised on the City’s website and electronic flyers (English and Spanish) were directly emailed to a focus group list of 22 people/organizations. Printed flyers (English and Spanish) were distributed throughout Commerce (City Hall, recreation centers/parks, and other locations) and provided to the local schools for distribution. The workshop was attended by approximately 20 community members, of which 12 “signed in” at the Welcome Table.

The Environmental Justice Element is a section of the General Plan that aims to identify and reduce unique or compound health risks in the city with a focus on disadvantaged communities. A disadvantaged community is a designated census tract that has a significantly high risk of exposure to pollution in the air, water, and soil. These tracts also may also experience socio-economic burdens such as adverse health issues, low incomes, and language barriers.

## **Workshop Presentation and Activity**

The Environmental Justice workshop purpose had two primary purposes -- inform community members regarding the Environmental Justice issues, and collect participant input regarding local pollution and socio-economic burdens. Specifically, the workshop discussed park access and active living; healthy food access; increasing walking, biking, and transit use; urban greening; community services; and governance. After a short presentation, workshop participants visited five stations to express their opinion. Each station contained two displays -- one that discussed the environmental or socio-economic limitations or barriers, and another that identified key strategies to address these limitations.



City staff and MIG planners facilitated each workshop stations' activities and discussion. Participants were asked to rate their responses between 1 and 5 and place a sticker on the display/board to reflect their rating. The display/boards along with participant responses are shown in this summary's Appendix. After the workshop activities, the attendees reconvened to review key input and briefly discuss the General Plan Update's next steps.

## Workshop Outcomes

The workshop activity, which primarily focused on pressing challenges throughout the city, provided key insight on the priorities of residents and employees. Overall, there is a strong concern with participants when it comes to having safe and proper access to parks and grocery stores, as well as reducing exposure to pollution. Participants find it difficult to easily travel to a grocery store by walking, biking, or bus. Other priorities included improving the city's workforce development services and expanding childcare facilities.

### **Activity Summary**

Each workshop display/board's responses are summarized below. The response that received the highest number of high priority responses are highlighted in blue.

## Station 1

**Question 1.1.** *Impacts on Commerce: How impactful is this issue on Commerce? (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of impact on Commerce, with 5 being the most impactful.)*

IMPACTS ON COMMERCE	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of access to quality jobs and livable wages	0	1	2	4	4
Lack of access to higher education	2	2	2	1	1
Language Isolation	2	0	4	2	0
High rates of chronic disease	0	0	2	4	3
Limited access to healthcare	0	2	2	4	1
Limited internet and smartphone access	0	0	5	2	2
Minimal availability of financial services	0	0	0	2	4
Minimal availability of workforce development services	0	0	0	3	5
Difficulty finding safe housing	0	0	1	3	4
None of these conditions impact Commerce					

### Other/Comments:

- Too many low-wage staff services/Temp work. More union jobs.

**Question 1.2.** *Socioeconomic/Community Services: What services should be provided to offset the impacts. (Share your thoughts about these services by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.)*

SOCIOECONOMIC/COMMUNITY SERVICES	1	2	3	4	5
Youth Employment Programs	0	0	0	6	4
Workforce Development	0	0	0	3	6
Housing Assistance Programs	0	2	3	2	4
After School Programs & Childcare Facilities	0	0	1	1	8
Senior Services & Programs	0	0	0	4	5
Physical/Mental Healthcare Clinics	0	0	2	3	4

## Station 2

**Question 2.1. Healthy Food Access:** How impactful is this issue on your ability to get healthy food? (Share your thoughts, does the topic make it difficult to get healthy food; 5 being very difficult.)

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS - 2	1	2	3	4	5
Distance to grocery stores by car	0	0	1	3	7
Difficult to get to grocery stores by walking, biking, or bus	0	0	2	0	9
Lack of fresh and affordable food and produce at local stores	0	0	1	2	8
Lack of culturally relevant grocery stores	0	0	0	4	6
Lack of community gardens	0	2	0	3	3
Lack of access to food and nutrition benefits	0	0	5	3	0
Concentration of fast-food restaurants	0	0	1	1	7
None of these conditions impact Commerce	1				

### Other/Comments:

- More Community Gardens.
- Healthy food stores like Sprouts, Whole Foods, or Grocery Outlet! Please.

**Question 2.2. Healthy Food Access:** How important are these ideas to improve your access to healthy food? (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.)

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS	1	2	3	4	5
Community Garden	0	0	2	8	1
Farmers' Markets	0	0	0	2	10
Affordable Healthy Foods	0	0	2	1	5
Local Stores with Fresh Produce	0	0	2	0	9
Healthy Food Campaigns	0	1	4	2	5
Food Establishments Accessible by Walking and Biking	0	0	0	0	11
Community Garden	0	0	2	8	1
Farmers' Markets	0	0	0	2	10

### Station 3

**Question 3.1.** *Impacts on Commerce: How impactful is this issue on Commerce?* (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of impact on Commerce, with 5 being the most impactful.)

IMPACTS ON COMMERCE - 2	1	2	3	4	5
Air pollution from Business and Industry	0	0	0	0	9
Air pollution from Vehicles and Trucks	0	0	0	0	9
Unsafe Drinking Water	5	1	2	1	0
Toxic Waste or Hazardous Facilities	2	0	1	1	5
Landfills and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities	2	0	0	3	3
Contaminated Soils	2	0	0	2	6

**Other/Comments:**

- Funding for public transit to reduce number of cars which contribute to bad air quality which affects our health.
- Local advisory to hold State of California accountable to clean contaminated soil in Commerce & surrounding neighborhoods.

**Question 3.2.** *Climate Resiliency: How important is this idea in addressing the climate impacts?* (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.)

STRENGTHS OR ASSET	1	2	3	4	5
Install Green Infrastructure	0	0	1	0	9
Green Buffers	0	0	0	0	11
More Street Trees	0	0	0	0	10
Water Conservation and Circulation	0	0	0	1	7
Pollution Monitoring	0	0	0	0	8
Work with Industries to Reduce Pollution	0	0	0	0	12

**Other/Comments:**

- Please plant more trees to help reduce/mitigate the pollution from close proximity to freeways and railroads.

## Station 4

**Question 4.1. Strength or Asset:** *Is this issue a strength/asset in Commerce?* (Share your thoughts, is the topic a strength or asset in your community; 5 being the highest rating.)

STRENGTHS OR ASSET	1	2	3	4	5
Racial and Ethnic Diversity	1	3	1	1	3
Economic Diversity	1	3	3	1	1
Local and Small Businesses	3	1	2	2	0
Community-based Organizations	1	0	3	1	5
Friends and Family Nearby	0	0	0	1	8
Social Spaces to Gather with Community	4	2	0	0	3
Thing for Kids to Do	1	0	1	1	6
Senior Resources	0	0	0	0	7

### Other/Comments:

- East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.
- Build a park at Laguna Nueva & Skatepark.
- More art programs.

**Question 4.2. Civic Engagement:** *Will the topic have an impact on civic engagement?* (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of impact on Commerce, with 5 being the most impactful.)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	1	2	3	4	5
Digital and Analogue Access to City Updates	0	0	3	2	6
Multi-lingual Materials and Interpretation	0	0	1	5	4
Partnerships with Community-based Organizations	0	0	0	3	7
Increase Resident Influence in Local Decision-making	0	0	2	2	8
Flexible Dates and Times for Community Events	0	0	4	4	2
Childcare at Community Events	0	0	3	0	7

## Station 5

**Question 5.1. Park Access:** Do the conditions impact/limit your access or use of parks? (Share your thoughts, do the following conditions limit your use of parks; 5 being very limiting)

PARK ACCESS - 2	1	2	3	4	5
Distance to parks	0	2	2	2	3
Lack of bike lanes, crosswalks, and sidewalks to easily get to parks	0	1	1	0	5
Availability of ADA supportive infrastructure	0	2	2	1	2
Lack of interesting things to do at parks	0	3	1	2	3
Safety of parks	0	1	0	3	6
Condition of parks and park amenities	0	1	0	3	4
None of these conditions impact Commerce					

### Other/Comments:

- Build a park at Laguna Nueva & Skate Park.
- Bike lanes on Goodrich & Ferguson Atlantic.
- Lack of street level activity.
- More Murals.

**Question 5.2. Park Access:** What items will improve your use of or access to parks? (Share your thoughts about these topics by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.)

PARK ACCESS	1	2	3	4	5
Bike and Pedestrian Amenities	0	0	0	4	5
Exercise Equipment	1	2	2	1	4
Play Features	0	0	3	4	3
Better Lighting and Activities	0	0	0	1	9
Accessibility for All Users	0	0	0	5	5
Ongoing Park Maintenance	0	0	1	3	6

### Other/Comments:

- No shade.
- Make Commerce Center on Whittier Blvd more pedestrian friendly.

## Entrance Question

*Do you live and/or work in Commerce?*

Live and Work	3
Live only	3
Work only	1
Neither work nor live	0





**Environmental Justice Element-  
May 16, 2023 Workshop Summary**

**Appendix A - Workshop Activity Boards - Results**

## Station 1.1

**REIMAGINE COMMERCE**  
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

**IMPACT ON COMMERCE** **IMPACTO EN COMMERCE**

Share your ideas about these topics by selecting the level of impact, with 5 being the most impactful. *Comparta sus ideas sobre estos temas seleccionando el nivel de impacto, siendo 5 el de mayor impacto.*

Lack of access to quality jobs and livable wages *Falta de acceso a trabajos de calidad y salarios dignos*

Lack of access to higher education *Falta de acceso a la educación universitaria*

Language isolation *Aislamiento del idioma*

High rates of chronic disease *Altos niveles de enfermedad crónica*

Limited access to healthcare *Acceso limitado a la atención médica*

Limited internet and smartphone access *Acceso limitado al Internet y teléfonos*

Minimal availability of financial services *Disponibilidad mínima de servicios financieros*

Minimal availability of workforce development services *Disponibilidad mínima de servicios de desarrollo de la fuerza laboral*

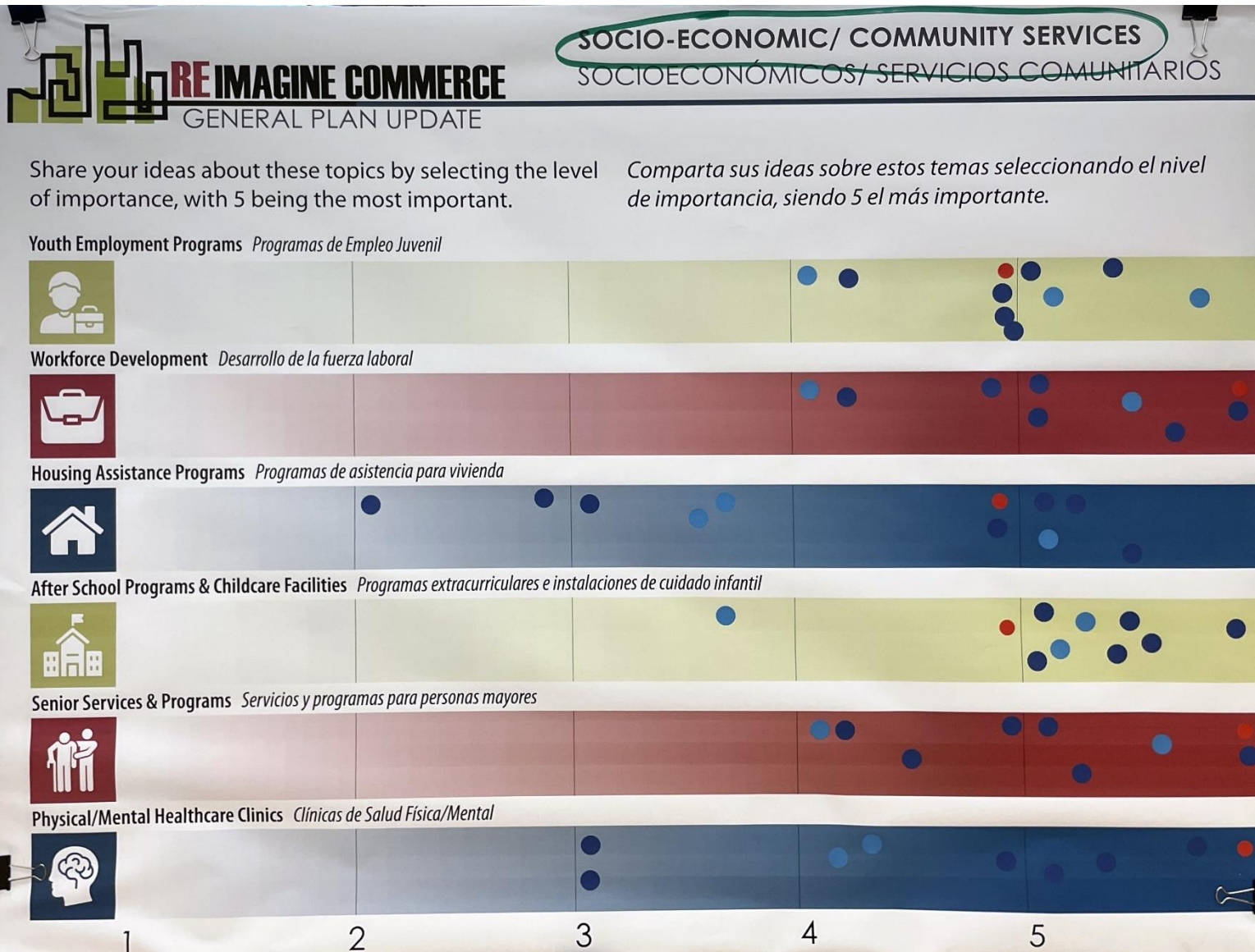
Difficulty finding safe housing *Dificultad para encontrar una vivienda segura*

None of these conditions impact Commerce *Ninguna de estas condiciones afecta a Commerce*

Other *Otro*

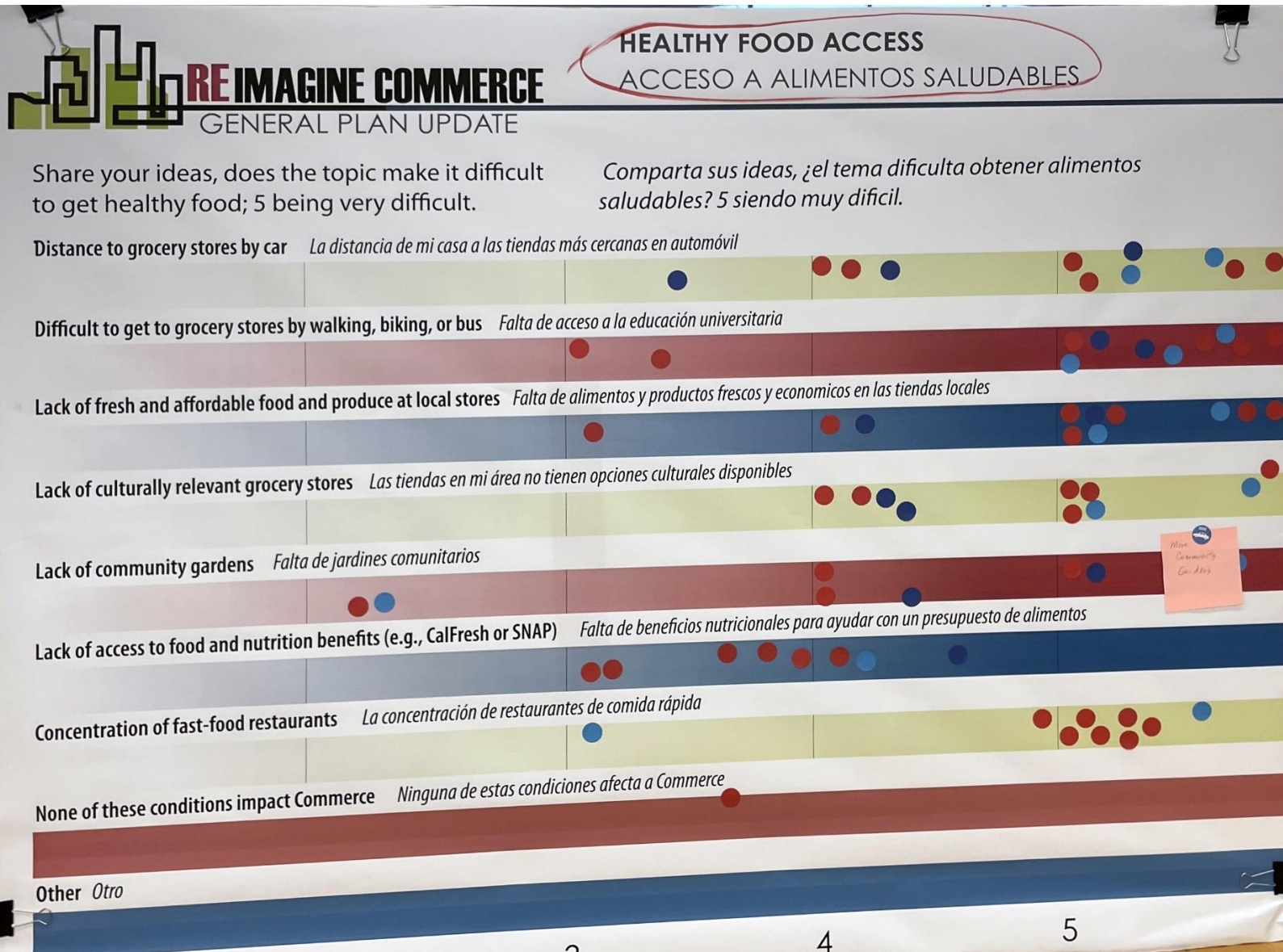
*Tom Mung, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, June 8, 2023*

## Station 1.2

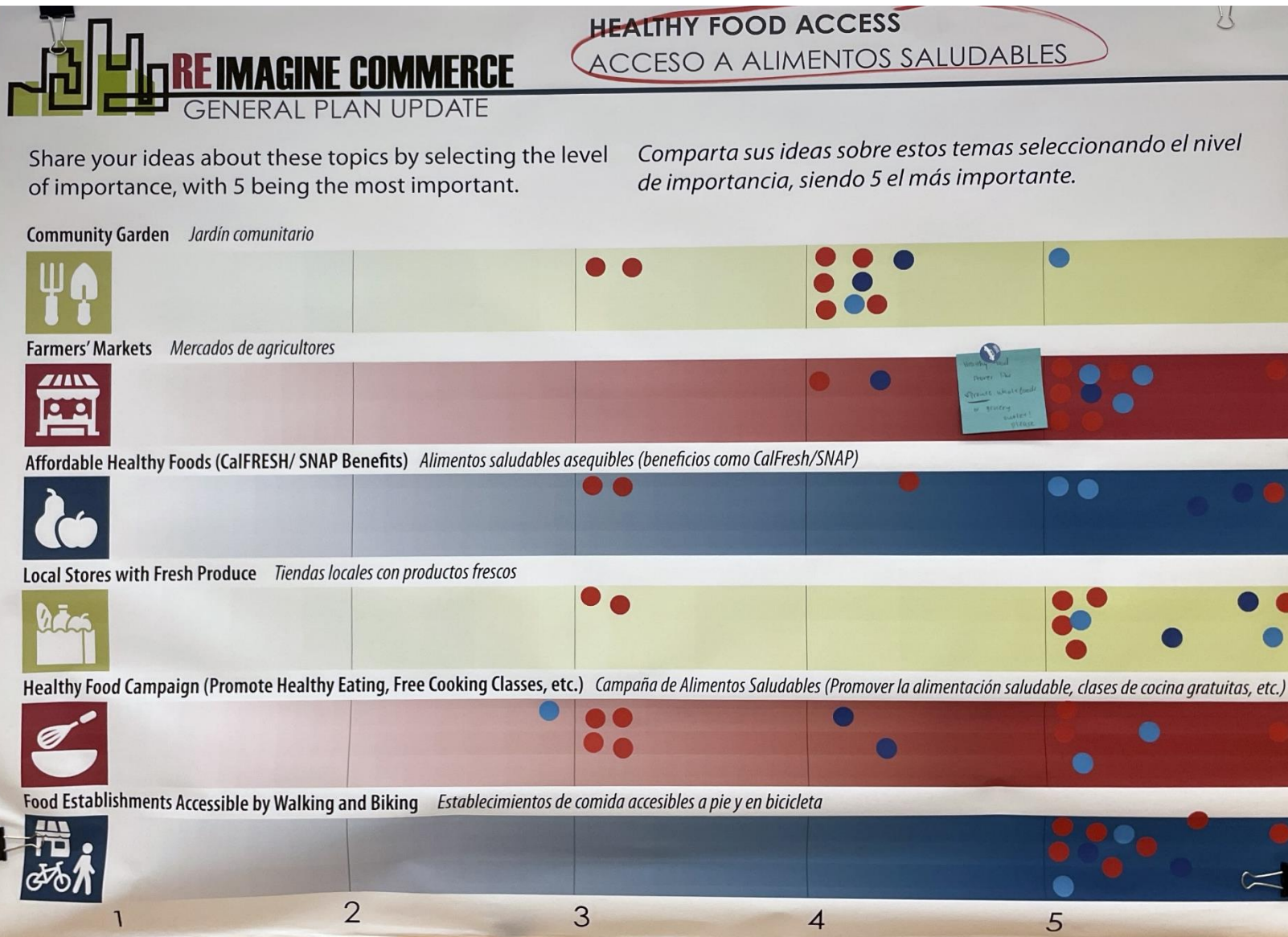


Station 2.1





Station 2.2



Station 3.1

Share your ideas about these topics by selecting the level of impact on Commerce, with 5 being the most impactful.

Comparta sus ideas sobre estos temas seleccionando el nivel de impacto en Commerce, 5 siendo el de mayor impacto.

**Air Pollution from Businesses and Industry** Contaminación del aire de las empresas y la industria

**Air Pollution from Vehicles and Trucks** Contaminación del aire de vehículos y camiones

**Unsafe Drinking Water** Agua potable contaminada

**Toxic Waste or Hazardous Facilities** Residuos tóxicos o instalaciones peligrosas

**Landfills and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities** Instalaciones de eliminación de residuos sólidos

**Contaminated Soils** Suelos contaminados

**Other** Otro

2

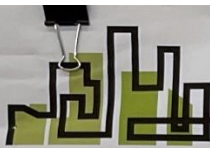
3

4

5

### Station 3.2




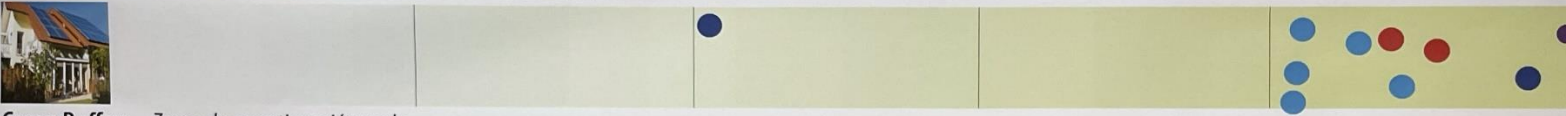







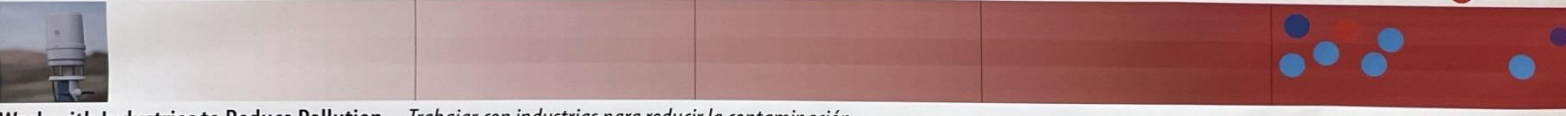




**REIMAGINE COMMERCE**  
 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

**CLIMATE RESILIENCY** RESILIENCIA CLIMÁTICA

Share your ideas about these topics by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.

Comparta sus ideas sobre estos temas seleccionando el nivel de importancia, siendo 5 el más importante.

 <b>Install Green Infrastructure</b> <i>La instalación de infraestructuras "verdes"</i>	
 <b>Green Buffers</b> <i>Zonas de amortiguación verde</i>	
 <b>More Street Trees</b> <i>Más árboles en las calles</i>	
 <b>Water Conservation and Circulation</b> <i>Circulación y conservación del agua</i>	
 <b>Pollution Monitoring</b> <i>Sensores de control de la contaminación</i>	
 <b>Work with Industries to Reduce Pollution</b> <i>Trabajar con industrias para reducir la contaminación</i>	
	<div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div>

#### Station 4.1

Share your ideas, is the topic a strength or asset in your community; 5 being the highest rating.

Comparta sus ideas, si el tema es una fortaleza o un activo en su comunidad; 5 siendo la calificación más alta.

Racial and ethnic diversity *Diversidad racial y étnica*

Economic Diversity *Diversidad económica*

Local and Small Businesses *Empresas pequeñas y locales*

Community-based organizations *Organizaciones comunitarias*

Friends and Family Nearby *Amigos y familiares cercanos*

Social Spaces to Gather with Community *Espacios sociales para reunirse con la comunidad*

Thing for Kids to Do *Actividades para los niños*

Senior Resources *Recursos para personas mayores*



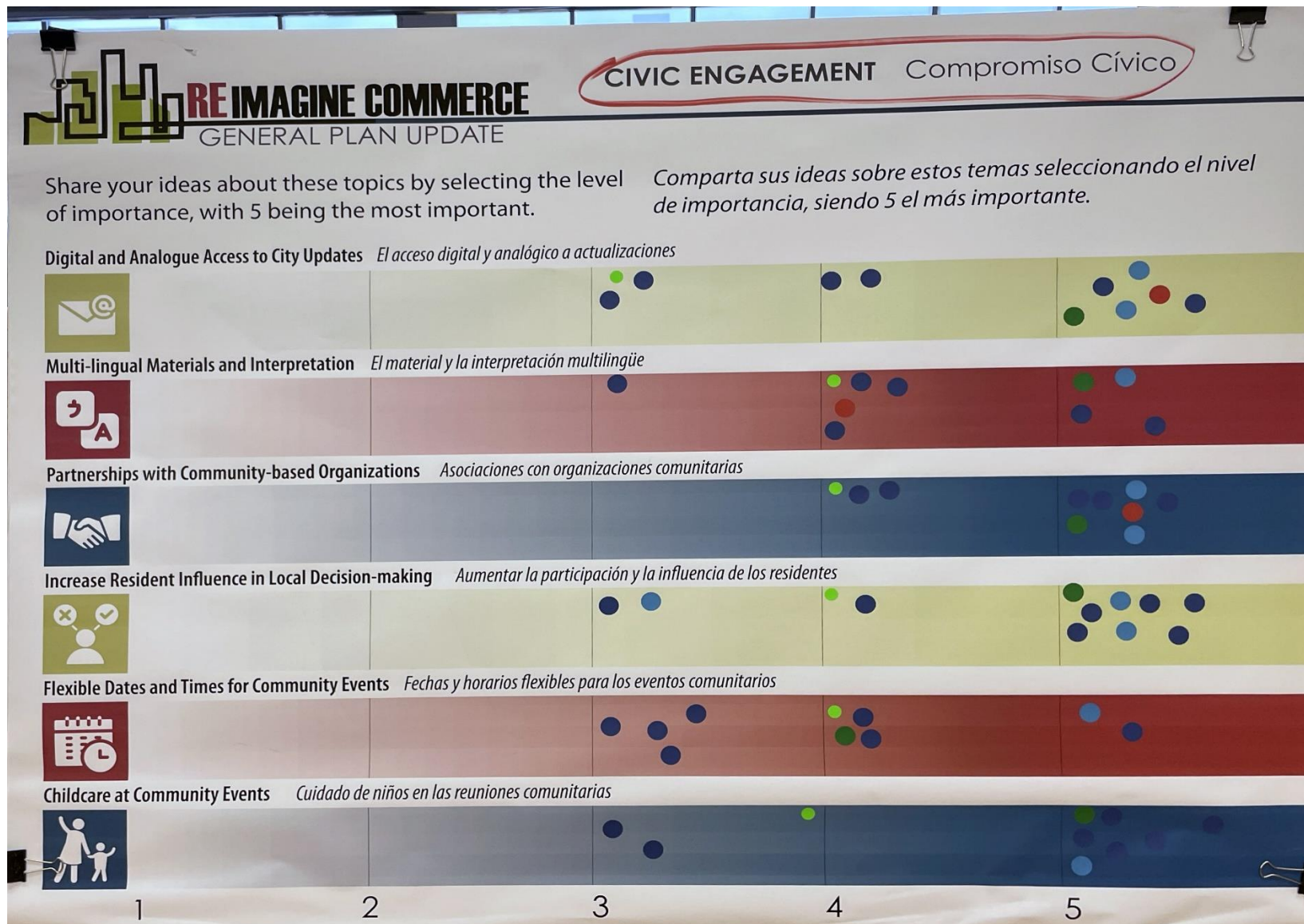
Best  
Things  
Community  
For  
Economic  
Growth

Public  
Park  
at  
Laguna  
Nueva  
at  
Shorepark

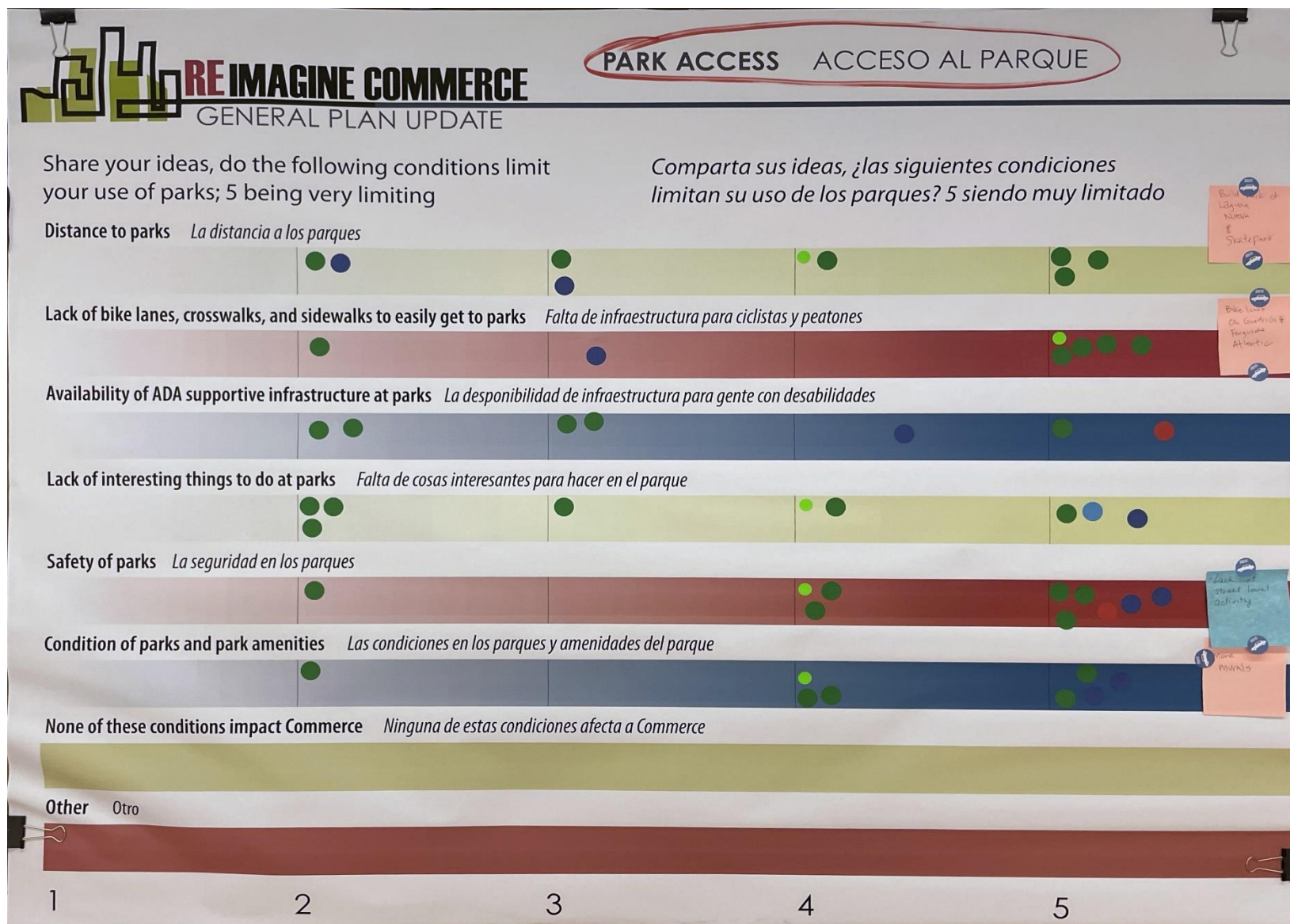
More  
POT  
Programs

**Station 4.2**





Station 5.1



Station 5.2



**PARK ACCESS/ ACTIVE LIVING**  
ACCESO AL PARQUE/ VIDA ACTIVA

Share your ideas about these topics by selecting the level of importance, with 5 being the most important.

Comparta sus ideas sobre estos temas seleccionando el nivel de importancia, siendo 5 el más importante.

**Bike and Pedstrian Amenities** *Infraestructuras para bicicletas y peatones*



**Exercise Equipment** *Equipamiento de ejercicio*



**Play Features** *Equipamiento de juego*



**Better Lighting and Activities** *Mejora de la iluminación y las actividades en los parques*



**Accessibility for All Users** *Accesibilidad en los parques*



**Ongoing Park Maintenance** *Mantenimiento continuo de parques*



1

2

3

4

5

