

And One Survey Leads to Another...

By Lee Borrowman

Love Lafayette: Yup, most do! When the Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee unveiled the results of its Downtown Survey in mid-October, it revealed that the majority of residents and businesses currently in Lafayette plan to stay in Lafayette; and by majority, we do mean enough to pass a (hypothetical) parcel tax.

High on the list of things survey respondents love about Lafayette are the restaurants, retail and service provider choices. The wish list includes nicer architecture for new buildings, more downtown open space (parks and plazas) and more cultural/entertainment venues to go with even more great restaurants. Above all, and perhaps not surprisingly, Lafayette clamors for less traffic and more parking spaces.

To that end the City has decided to conduct another survey, this one sent to local employers and employees, focusing on parking and transportation. According

to Transportation Planner Leah Greenblat, the City has heard from its business community that employee parking crowds out available spaces for patrons. Merchants have approached the City with a suggestion that one way to ease any perceived parking shortage is to address parking for employees, especially in the downtown area.

Lafayette employers and employees will be surveyed to determine how parking can be improved. The survey will also ask about the awareness and use of ridesharing incentives. Greenblat says that discouraging solo driving will help to improve parking availability and traffic congestion. The survey will close on November 16, 2007.

To view a comprehensive summary of the Downtown Survey results, or to obtain a copy of the parking survey, go to <http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/>.

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