

CSU Opinions on the St George 2040 Survey

Introduction

As part of an effort to update the [St George General Plan](#) for its 2040 vision, the city is conducting a survey to get input from their residents, those who work/volunteer in and around the city, and others who regularly use the city's businesses, institutions and infrastructure. A general plan, [by definition](#), is intended to determine community goals and aspirations in terms of community development, expressing and regulating public policies on transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing.

CSU's over-arching principles for our community:

1. Protect the environment, especially protected public lands, habitats, species, water, air and climate
2. Implement smart growth policies that limit sprawl, reducing water and energy use and the need for more roads
3. Encourage and participate in integrated regional planning – isolated planning, city-by-city, will not be as effective due to disparate/competing principles, dis-integrated transportation planning, etc.
4. Enable a thriving and diverse population – housing, educational, employment and transportation options

The [survey](#) begins a short “demographics” section, followed by the 7 main sections, some with open-ended questions, some with rankings and some with multiple choice, many with an “other” response that lets you reply in your own words. The sections are summarized below, **with CSU's guidance/opinion in *blue italics***:

1. Lifestyle

a. What do you value most about St. George today?

CSU opinion: the natural environment (its proximity, the views) and the climate

b. As you have lived in and experienced St. George, what elements of the City could benefit from additional planning and investment? (order of importance)

CSU opinion:

1. *Enhancing the connection to nature*
2. *Promoting “responsible” growth (reduce sprawl and resulting traffic and pressure on the environment)*
3. *Other: policies that protect our public lands, conserve water and energy, sustain/improve air quality*

2. Economic Vitality – education, jobs, housing

CSU opinion: this topic is a bit off our focus, but we'd favor diverse opportunities

3. Connection to Nature – views, parks, landscaping, trails, rivers, habitat

In your opinion, how satisfied are you with St. George City's efforts to integrate nature into the City in the following areas? (how satisfied)

CSU opinion where improvement is warranted:

- *Preserving sensitive lands and habitats*
- *Protecting views to bluffs and other natural features*
- *Effective urban landscaping*
- *Other: conserving water and energy*

4. Responsible Growth – where and how to grow, access, housing, water and energy

a. Select areas on the map below that you feel would be appropriate for additional growth within St. George?

CSU opinion: downtown (grow up not out) and the SE side of town (away from protected lands)

b. As we consider how to grow responsibly, how important are each the following?

CSU opinion of important topics:

1. *Planning for access to a range of daily services without traveling too far*
2. *Water-efficient development*
3. *Renewable energy generation*
4. *Providing more attainable housing*

c. What aspects of growth would enhance St. George?

CSU opinion: the most important ones aren't listed, so use "other"

1. *Other: (1) Under-valuation of our natural resources (public lands, especially sensitive and scenic lands, water, air quality, energy emissions), sacrificed for poorly-planned growth. (2) sprawl – neighborhoods far away from services, transportation planning that react to growth rather than an integrated plan; lack of regional planning integration; public lands impacts including roads through protected areas, mis-use; excessive water and energy use.*

5. Accessible City – transportation (cars, bikes, walking, bus), parking, safety

a. In general, how satisfied are you with transportation options (roadways, transit, pedestrian paths, bicycle infrastructure)?

CSU opinion: none given – more of a personal judgment

b. What transportation challenges do you commonly experience in St George?

CSU opinion: none given – more of a personal judgment

c. Which of the following transportation improvements are most important to you? (a ranked listing)

CSU opinion: (1) improved traffic signals and crossings to improve traffic flow, (2) better trail/connections, (3) better bus service/facilities

6. Thriving Downtown – culture connection, arts and entertainment, housing, nature/landscaping, employment, shopping

CSU opinion: outside of our focus, although we generally support a thriving downtown and think it could use a lot of help.

7. Enhancing Arts and Culture – museums, arts, venues

CSU opinion: outside of our focus, although we generally support the arts and culture, with a concentration downtown.

8. Is there anything else you would like the City to consider as these two exciting planning projects begin?

CSU opinion: Most key points were already mentioned, but this is a chance to summarize:

1. *Protect the environment, especially protected public lands, habitats, species, water, air and climate*
2. *Implement smart growth policies that limit sprawl, reducing water and energy use and the need for more roads*
3. *Encourage and participate in integrated regional planning – isolated planning, city-by-city, will not be as effective due to disparate/competing principles, dis-integrated transportation planning, etc.*
4. *Enable a thriving and diverse population – housing, educational, employment and transportation options*