

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #8 SUMMARY

Far East Community Area Plan

Meeting Date: June 27th, 2023
Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Location: Zoom

Planning Team Attendees

Anita Franklin, Dellcrest Area Neighborhood
Christine Vina, VIA
Karen Bishop, SA River Authority
Brad Alm, HEB
Tina Beecham, Black Girls do Bike/Pedal SATX
Alejandra Maia, United Way

Isaac Levy, CoSA Transportation
David Arciniega, CoSA Parks Department
Jessica Sifuentes, VIA
Darren Harris, Accu-Aire LLC.
Lindsey Logan, SAGE

Planning Staff & Consultant Team

Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate (MIG)
Chris Ryerson, Planning Administrator (CoSA)
Dave Powell, Project Manager (CoSA)
Saul Vazquez, Senior Project Associate (MIG)

Heather Yost, Project Manager (CoSA)
Jay Renkens, Principal (MIG)
Hannah Santiago, Regional Manager
(Cambridge Systematics)

Meeting Objectives:

The purpose of the eighth Planning Team Meeting was to initiate conversation on the initial Far East Amenities & Public Spaces and Mobility draft recommendations and to highlight the results of the draft Digital Design Charette's (DDC).

Meeting Format

The meeting began with a recap of the Planning Team Mixer and 3rd Community Wide Open House as well as a brief introduction of the Project Team and Planning Team Members. We then went over the meeting objectives and overviewed Amenities and Public Spaces related goals and vision received from previous Planning Team Meetings, Community Meetings, and community surveys. Next, Project Manager, David Powell, discussed priority mobility sites and how they overlap with current 2022 bond projects. Hannah Santiago, consultant with Cambridge Systematics, then overviewed initial draft recommendations and strategies related to mobility within the Far East Area where Planning Team Members provided feedback and comment. Thereafter, Senior Project Associate with MIG, Saul Vazquez, presented on an initial mobility rendering depicting potential improvements on MLK Dr. where Planning Team Members provided feedback. David then highlighted previous community and Planning Team input as it relates to Amenities and Public Spaces. Jay Renkens, Principal with MIG, overviewed each potential Amenities and Public Space elements and showcased initial draft recommendations to gather additional feedback from the Planning Team. Jay then provided a summary of input received

from the last community wide open house and Planning Team meeting related to focus areas and amenities and public spaces. We then showcased the initial draft renderings of the Digital Design Charette’s and gathered feedback from Planning Team Members. The Project Manager then concluded the meeting and provided next steps within the planning process.

Mobility Discussion

Mobility Priority Sites & 2022 Bond Projects Map:



Mobility Recommendations and Strategies:

The following mobility related recommendations and strategies are currently in draft form and are subject to change throughout the planning process based on community input received.

Mobility Recommendation #1: Prioritize comfortable and safe mobility for all (strategies listed below).

- Continue implementation of Vision Zero strategies (reduced speed limits for neighborhood streets) for key areas of conflicts between people driving, people walking and people bicycling.
- Implement traffic calming opportunities for major thoroughfares.

Mobility Recommendation #2: Increase walkability and neighborhood access through street design (strategies listed below).

- Reconnect neighborhoods through pedestrian scale improvements at intersections of highways and arterials.
- Eliminate sidewalk gaps, especially near transit stops, trailheads, schools and neighborhood centers of activity.



- Provide pedestrian crossing opportunities along major arterials.

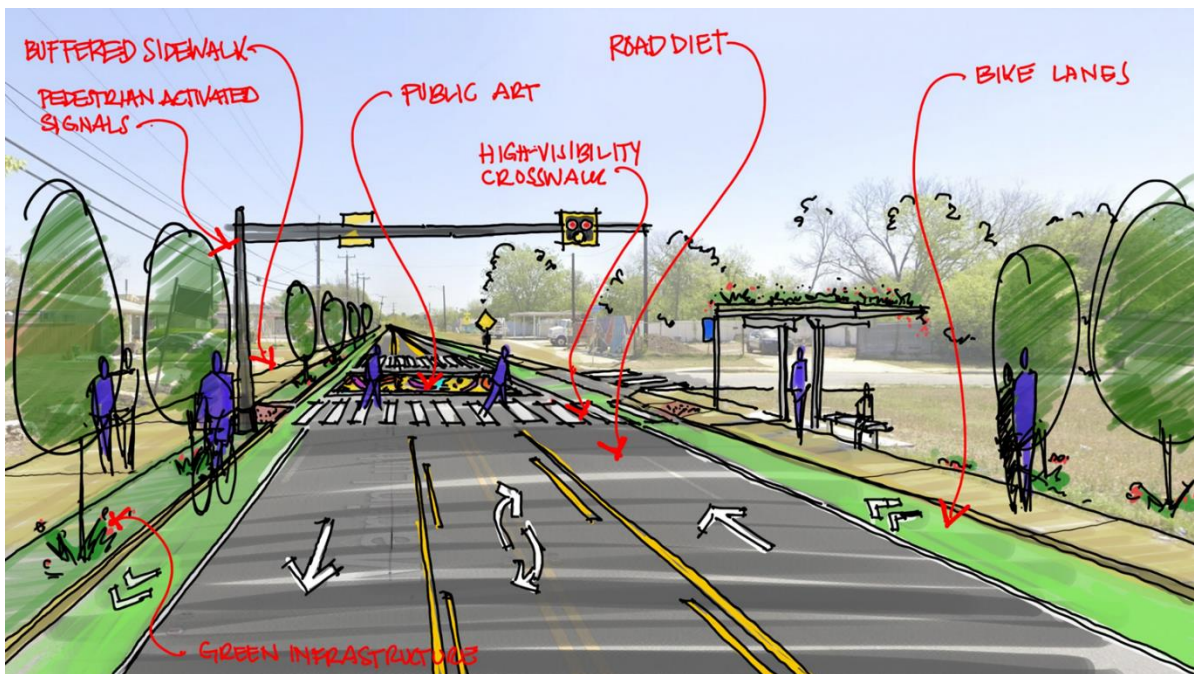
Mobility Recommendation #3: Create connectivity through multi-modal transportation options. (strategies listed below).

- Provide contiguous protected bicycle infrastructure to build upon existing Salado Creek Greenway network.
- Determine feasibility of park & ride or mobility hub to provide access to transit for residents living in low density locations.

Comments received by the Planning Team for initial draft recommendations and strategies for mobility:

- WW White from I-10 to Rigsby Ave can use traffic calming with wider sidewalks and bike facilities.
- Separate users whenever possible.
- Add VZ signage for major arterials.
- Reinforce the complete streets policy.
- Stress sidewalks near transit stops.
- Rigsby Ave and Loop 410 is a problem area.
- Add pedestrian scrambles at busy intersections.
- Identify sidewalk gaps with data and address those areas.
- Create connections to potential family resource centers.
- Add green infrastructure elements.

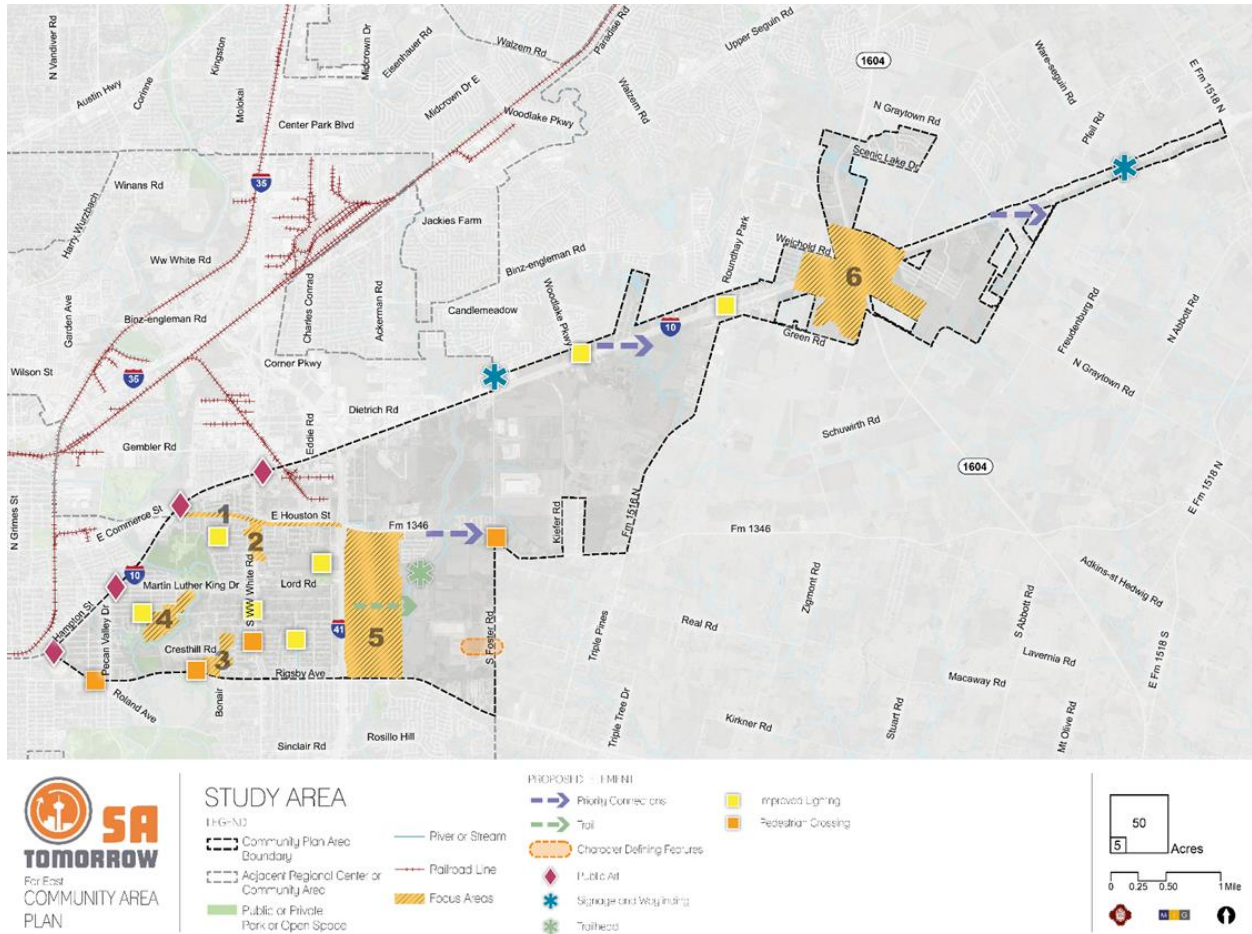
Draft Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Visual Rendering – Aspirational Sketch Graphic (Subject to Change based on Community Input)



Comments received by the Planning Team for MLK Dr. Aspirational Graphic:

- Create wider sidewalk on the side of the bus.
- 11 feet lanes are preferred for buses.

Initial Draft Amenities and Public Spaces Priority Map



Map notes from Amenities and Public Spaces Priority Map:

- New park and ride will have public art added to map.

Draft Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendations:

The following Amenities and Public Spaces related recommendations and strategies are currently in draft form and are subject to change throughout the planning process based on community input received.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation #1:

Provide trees along sidewalks to beautify streets, provide shade, reduce the urban heat island effect, and improve air quality.



Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation #2:

Create east-west trail connections that intersect with existing north-south connections.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation #3:

Increase the amount of lighting at parks and public spaces to allow them to be utilized during more times of the day.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation #4:

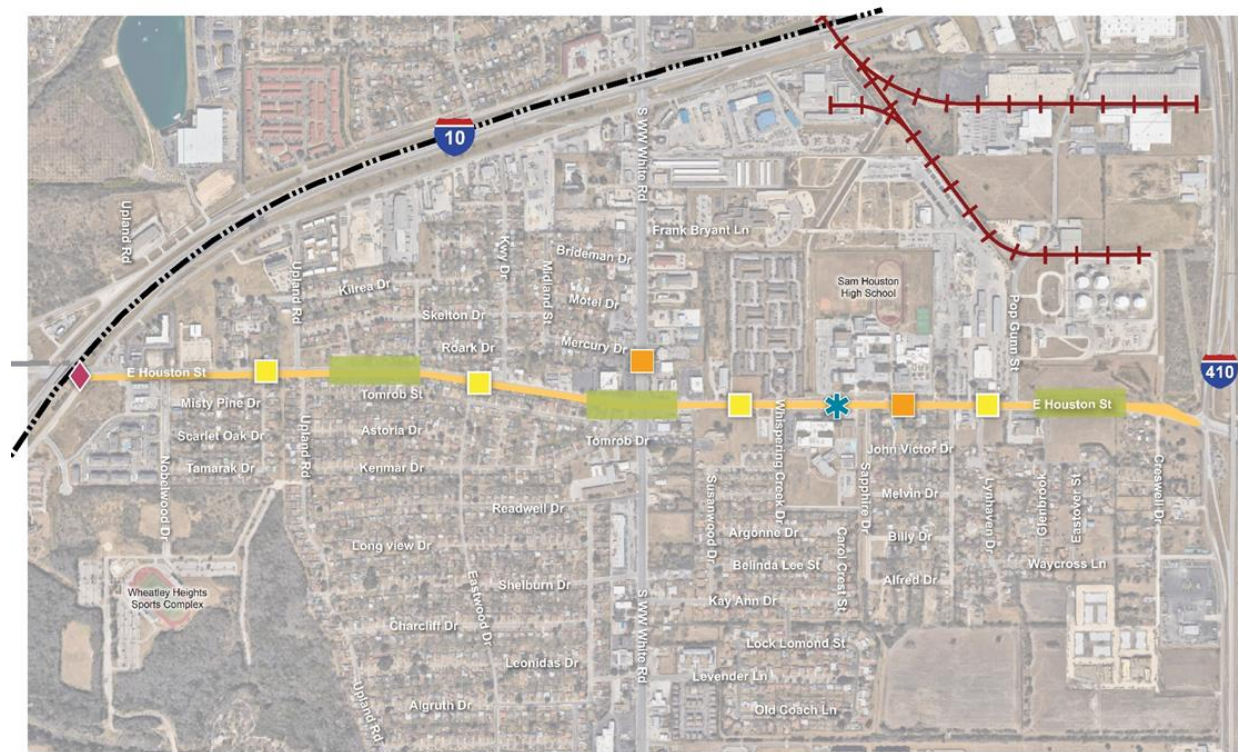
Establish community gardens at existing parks and open spaces.

Comments from the Planning Team regarding Amenities and Public Spaces draft recommendations:

- Make sure to stress appropriateness of trees.
- Add green infrastructure to mitigate flooding.
- Make recommendation #4 that we are not taking recreational amenities and that they are two separate recreational opportunities.

Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Areas Priority Maps

Focus Area #1:



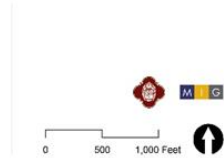
**FOCUS AREA 1:
EAST HOUSTON
STREET CORRIDOR**

LEGEND

- Community Plan Area Boundary
- Adjacent Regional Center or Community Area
- Focus Area
- Railroad Line

FOCUS AREA 1B COMMUNICATIONS

- Proposed Park/Open Space
- Public Art
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Improved Lighting
- Pedestrian Crossing



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #1 Priority Map:

- Add public art to WW White and E. Houston St. intersection.
- Add pedestrian crossing icon to WW White and E. Houston St. intersection.

Focus Area #2:



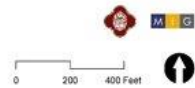
**FOCUS AREA 2:
OLD WW WHITE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

LEGEND

- Community Plan Area Boundary
- Adjacent Regional Center or Community Area
- Focus Area
- Railroad Line

FOCUS AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

- Proposed Park/Open Space
- Cherished/Enduring Features
- Improved Lighting
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Green Infrastructure



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #2 Priority Map:

- Add public art to this intersection.
- Add crossing at this intersection.



Focus Area #3



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #3 Priority Map:

- No comments received.

Focus Area #4:



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #4 Priority Map:

- No comments received.

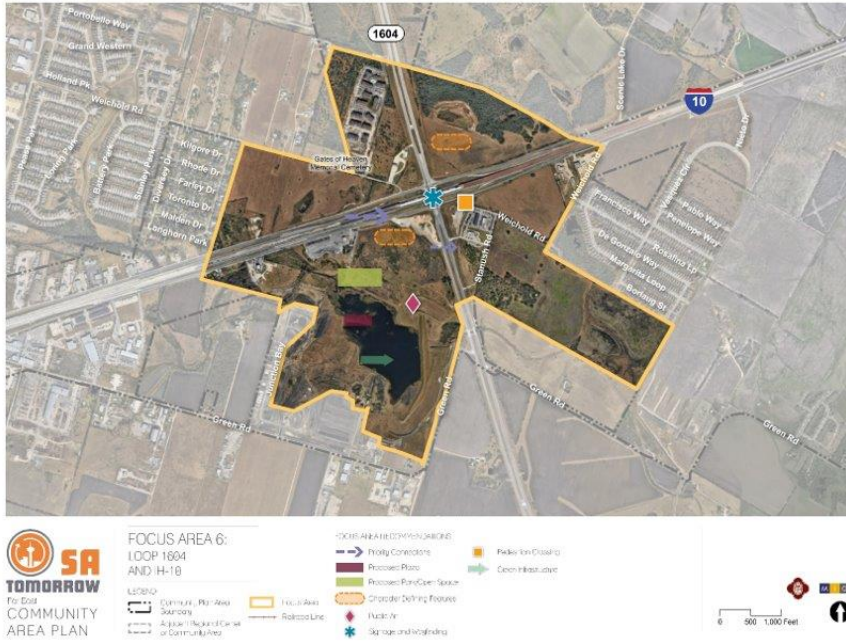
Focus Area #5:



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #5 Priority Map:

- Add entertainment options.
- Add medical facilities.

Focus Area #6



Comments for Amenities and Public Spaces – Focus Area #6 Priority Map:

- Add entertainment options.

Digital Design Charette (DDC) Initial Draft Renderings

The DDC graphics shown below are aspirational and are currently in draft form and do not represent development that will happen, but rather what could happen. The intent and focus of these graphics is to showcase particular elements that are priorities of the community and visualizing it on a DDC graphic. All graphics incorporate community feedback and input based on area vision and goals.

WW White Road DDC:

Existing Conditions:



Draft DDC:



Draft WW White Photo Simulation:

Existing Conditions (Looking North on WW White):



Draft Photo Simulation (Looking North on WW White):

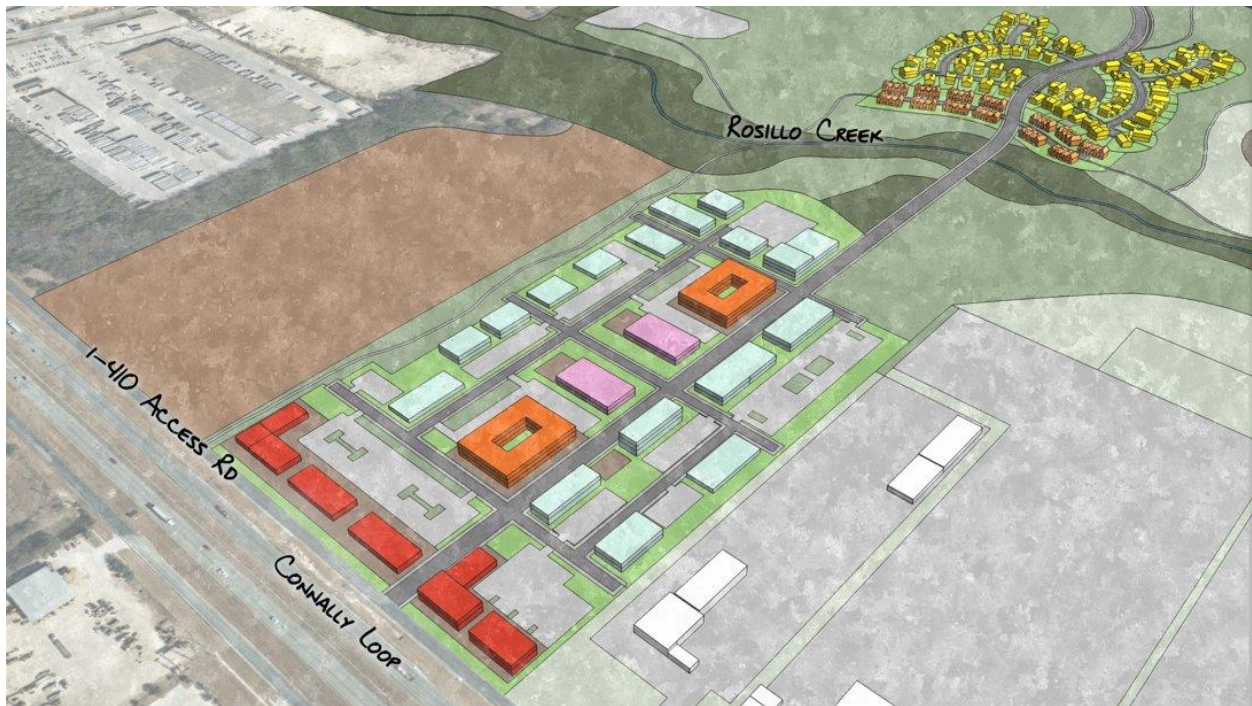


East Loop 410 DDC:

Existing Conditions:



Draft DDC (Looking Northeast):



Draft DDC (Looking South):



Draft Photo Simulation:

Existing Conditions:



Draft Photo Simulation:



Digital Design Charette Input from the Planning Team:

- Add community gardens to open space modeling (WW White Road DDC)
- Show road connecting in upper left to access road (East Loop 410 DDC)

Next Steps

- **Planning Team Meeting 9: Monday, July 31st, 2023-** 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm via Zoom
- **Planning Team Meeting 10: Monday, August 21st, 2023** – 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM via Zoom

The meeting summary and presentation will be shared to the Documents Library on the Far East Community Plan Area website in the coming days: <https://fareast.sacomplan.com/> Please contact the project manager if you have any questions.

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