

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #9 SUMMARY

Far East Community Area Plan

Meeting Date: July 31, 2023
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Location: Zoom

Planning Team Attendees

Anita Franklin, Dellcrest Area Neighborhood	Dwayne Robinson, MLK Commissioner
Christine Vina, VIA	Isaac Levy, CoSA Transportation
Karen Bishop, SA River Authority	David Arciniega, CoSA Parks Department
Brad Alm, HEB	Melanie Cowart, Roseville Housing Trust
Troy Meuth, Martindale Army Heliport	Sydell Brooks, District 2 Council Office
Alberta Harris, Eastside Advocate	Lindsey Logan, SAGE
Uche Ogba, EHCUC Marketing Agency	

Planning Staff & Consultant Team

Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate (MIG)	Jay Renkens, Principal (MIG)
Dave Powell, Project Manager (CoSA)	Hannah Santiago, Regional Manager (Cambridge Systematics)
Saul Vazquez, Senior Project Associate (MIG)	
Gretchen Roufs, A-M-S	

Meeting Objectives:

The purpose of the 9th Planning Team Meeting was to review the draft Far East Amenities & Public Spaces and Mobility recommendations and strategies and to highlight the results of the draft Mobility graphics.

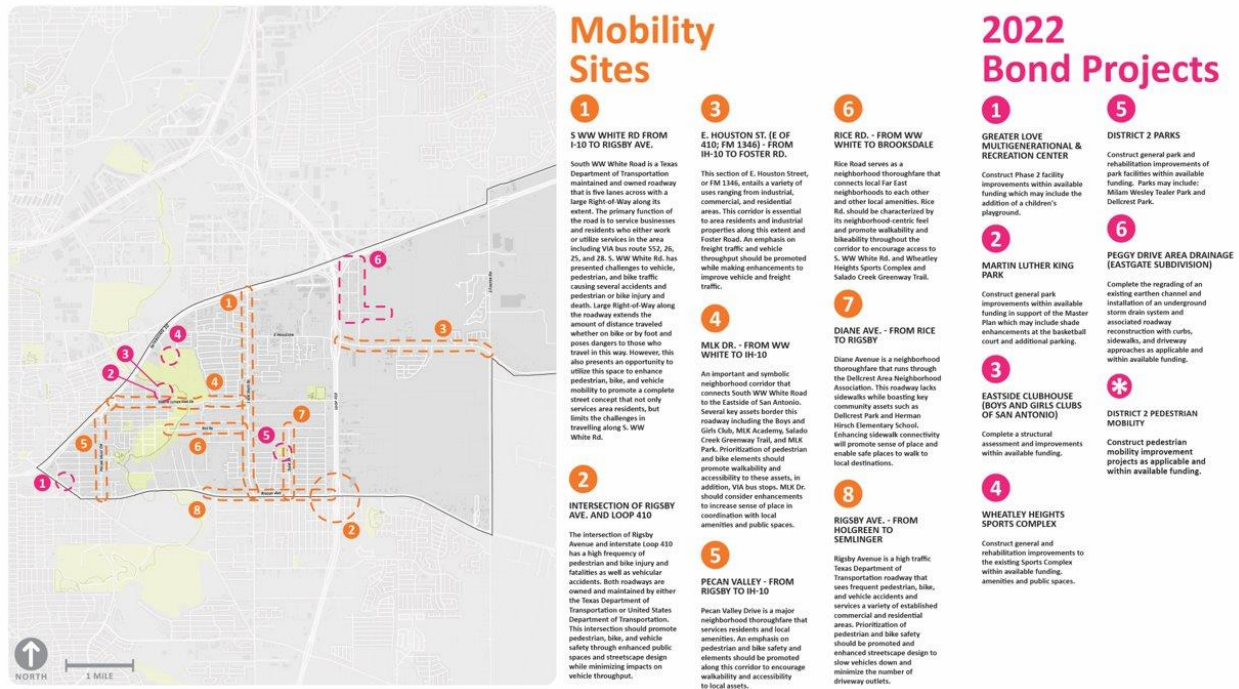
Meeting Format

The meeting began with a recap of the previous Planning Team Meeting #8 as well as a brief introduction of the Project Team and Planning Team Members. We then went over the meeting objectives and reviewed the draft goals and vision. 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 revised draft mobility recommendations and strategies and the initial draft mobility map within the Far East Area where Planning Team Members provided feedback and comment. Thereafter, Senior Project Associate with MIG, Saul Vazquez, presented on 5 mobility graphics depicting potential improvements on various priority corridors across Far East. Planning Team Members provided feedback and input regarding the draft graphics. Jay Renkens, Principal with MIG, overviewed each potential Amenities and Public Space elements and showcased revised draft recommendations and strategies 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 Amenities and Public Spaces map and gathered feedback from Planning Team Members. David then provided an overview of the Neighborhood Profile and Priorities section of the Far East Community Area Plan and progress made thus far for this section of the plan. The Project Manager then concluded the meeting and provided next steps within the planning process.

Mobility Discussion

Mobility Priority Sites and 2022 Bond Projects Map:



Draft 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.
- Separate different types of transportation users through infrastructure interventions where possible.



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.
- Incorporate green infrastructure elements into street design of key mobility projects.

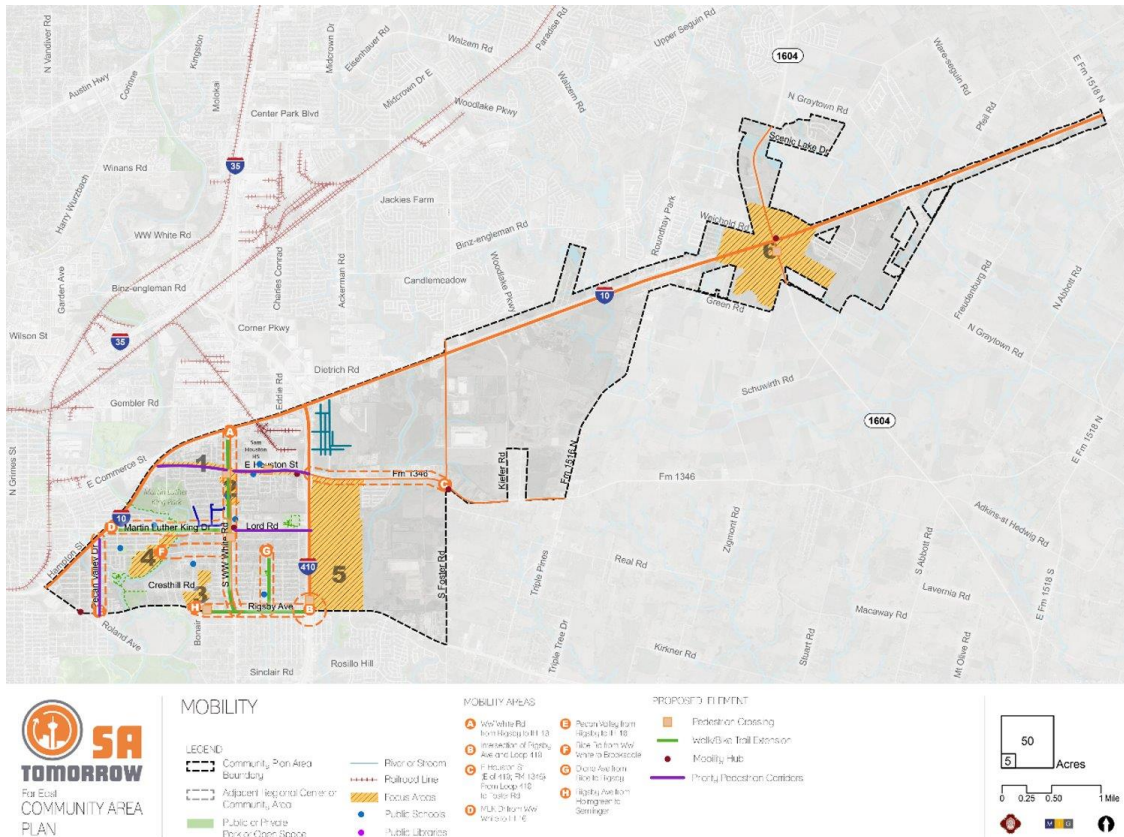
Mobility Recommendation #3: Create connectivity through multi-modal transportation options (strategies listed below).

- 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:

- No comments received.

Draft Mobility Map (Subject to Change based on Community Input)

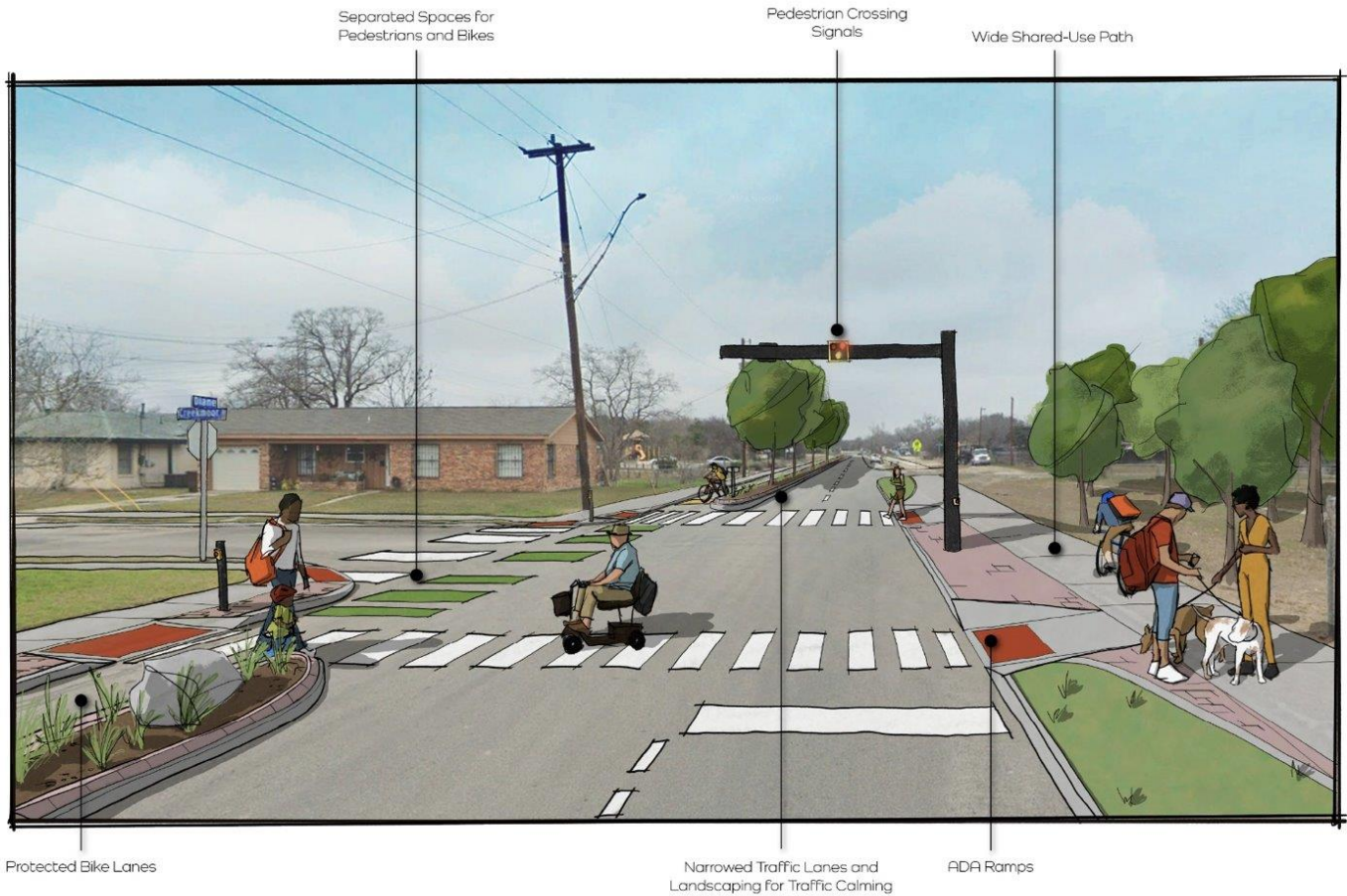


Comments received by the Planning Team for initial draft Mobility Map:

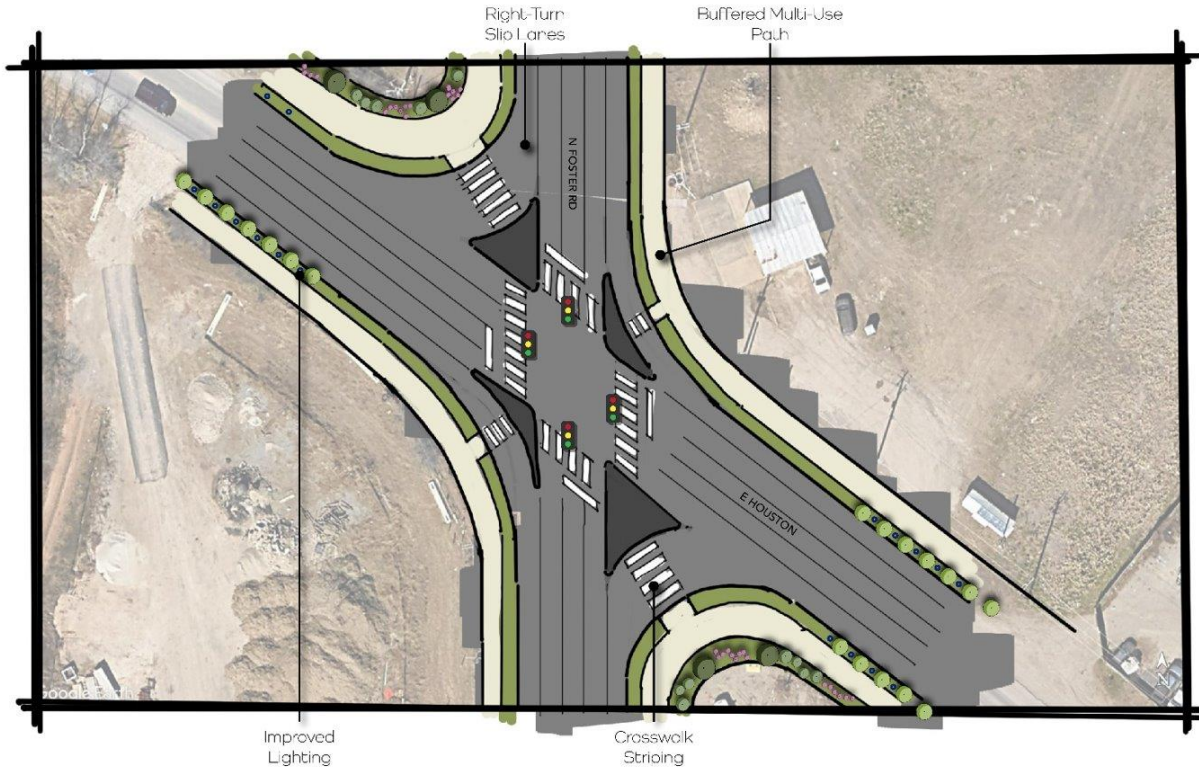
- Pedestrian crossing on E. Houston St. between I-10 and WW White Road.
- Add GSI (green stormwater infrastructure), narrowing and calming elements to map.
- Separate trail from legend
- Add PHBs (pedestrian hybrid beacons) on WW White Rd.
- Add trail extensions on Salado Creek.
- Near F St. – add creek to street elements w/ GSI and open space.

Draft Mobility Graphics (Subject to Change based on Community Input)

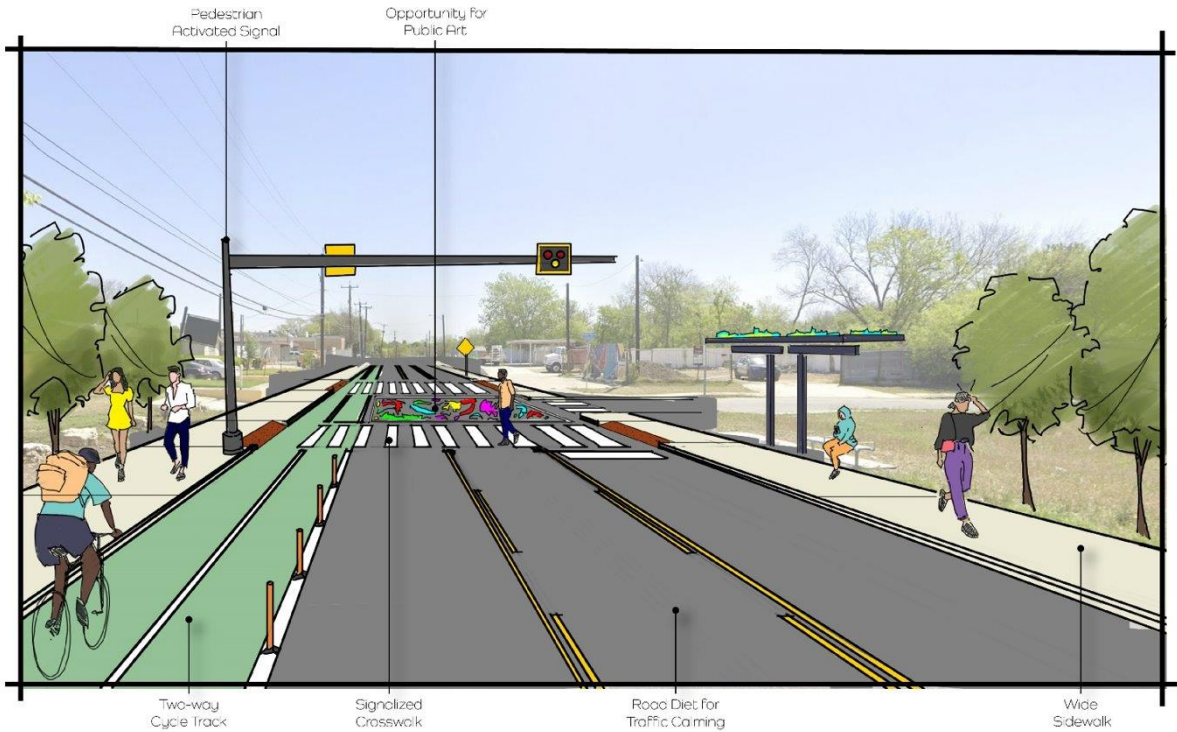
Diane and Creekmoor:



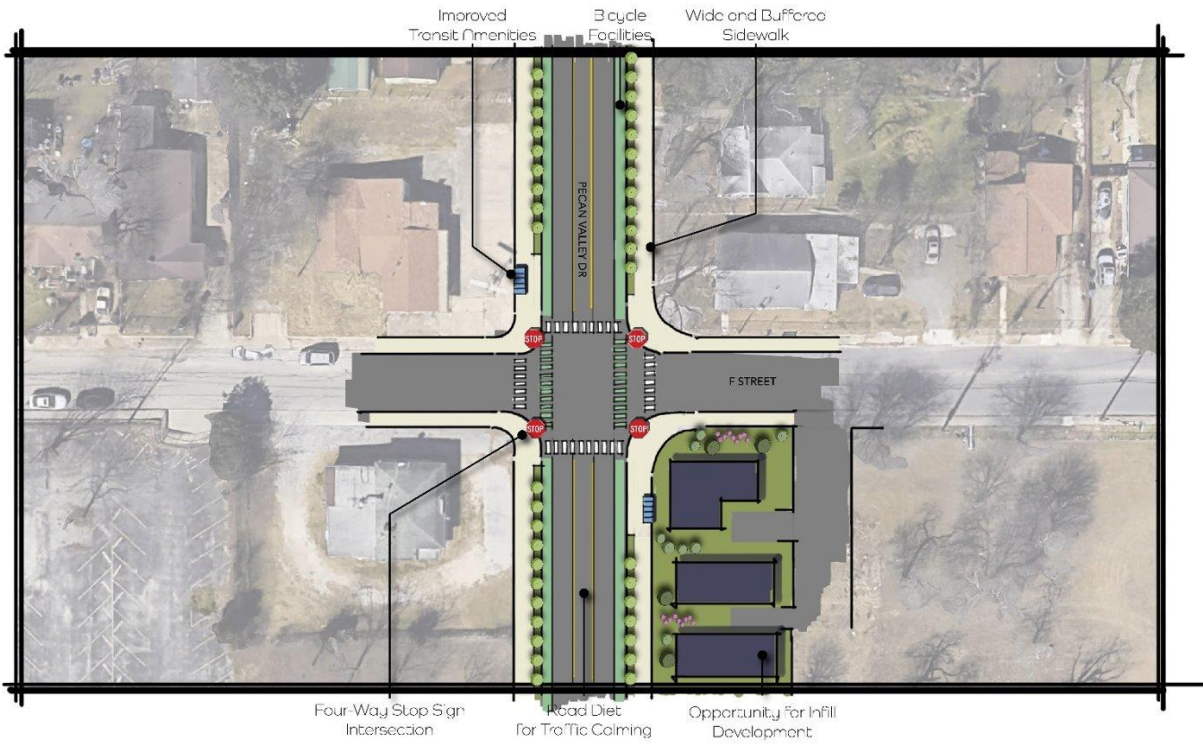
E. Houston St. (FM 1346) and S. Foster Rd.:



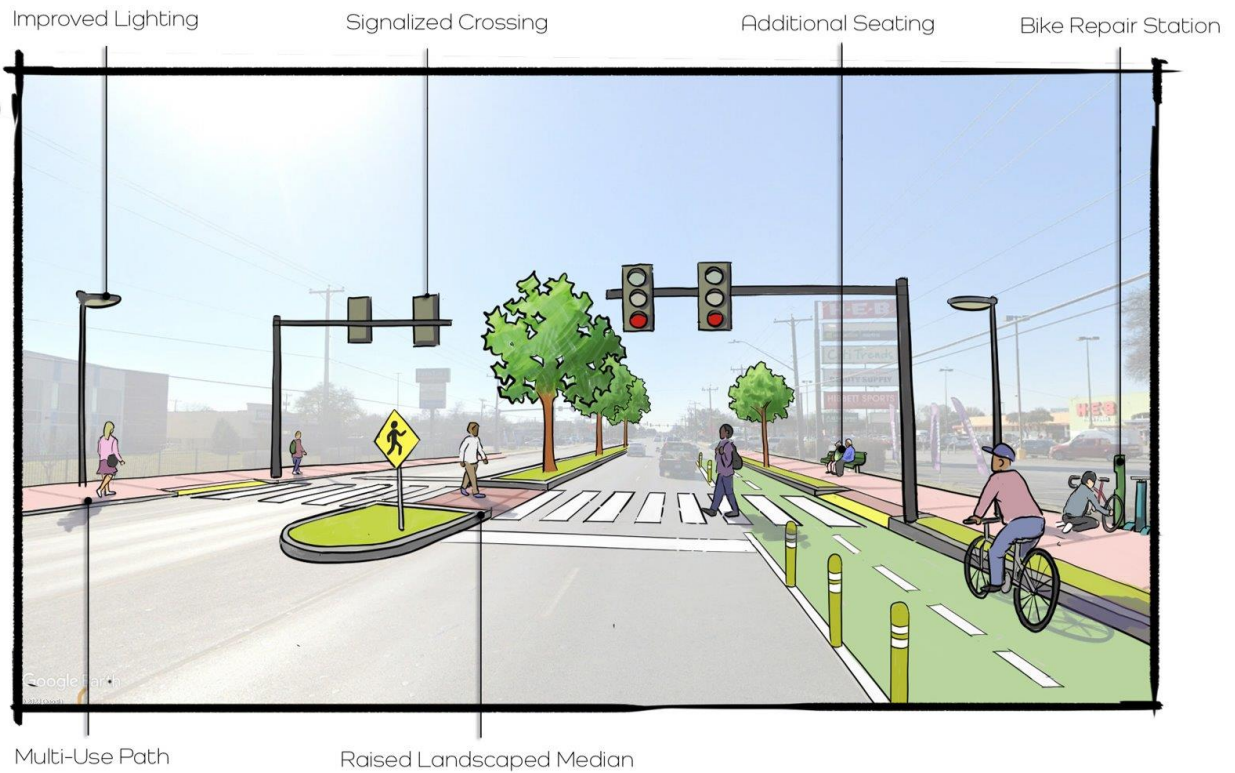
Martin Luther King Dr. and Eva Jo St.:



Pecan Valley and F St.:



WW White HEB:



Comments for Mobility Graphics

Diane and Creekmoor:

- The Park to the right is being upgraded.
- Add yield signs for pedestrians.

E. Houston St. and S. Foster Rd.:

- No comments received.

Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. and Eva Jo St.:

- Make sure crossings are not limited to just one area.
- Make pedestrians visible if bus is blocking crosswalk view – add refuge in middle lane.

Pecan Valley and F St.:

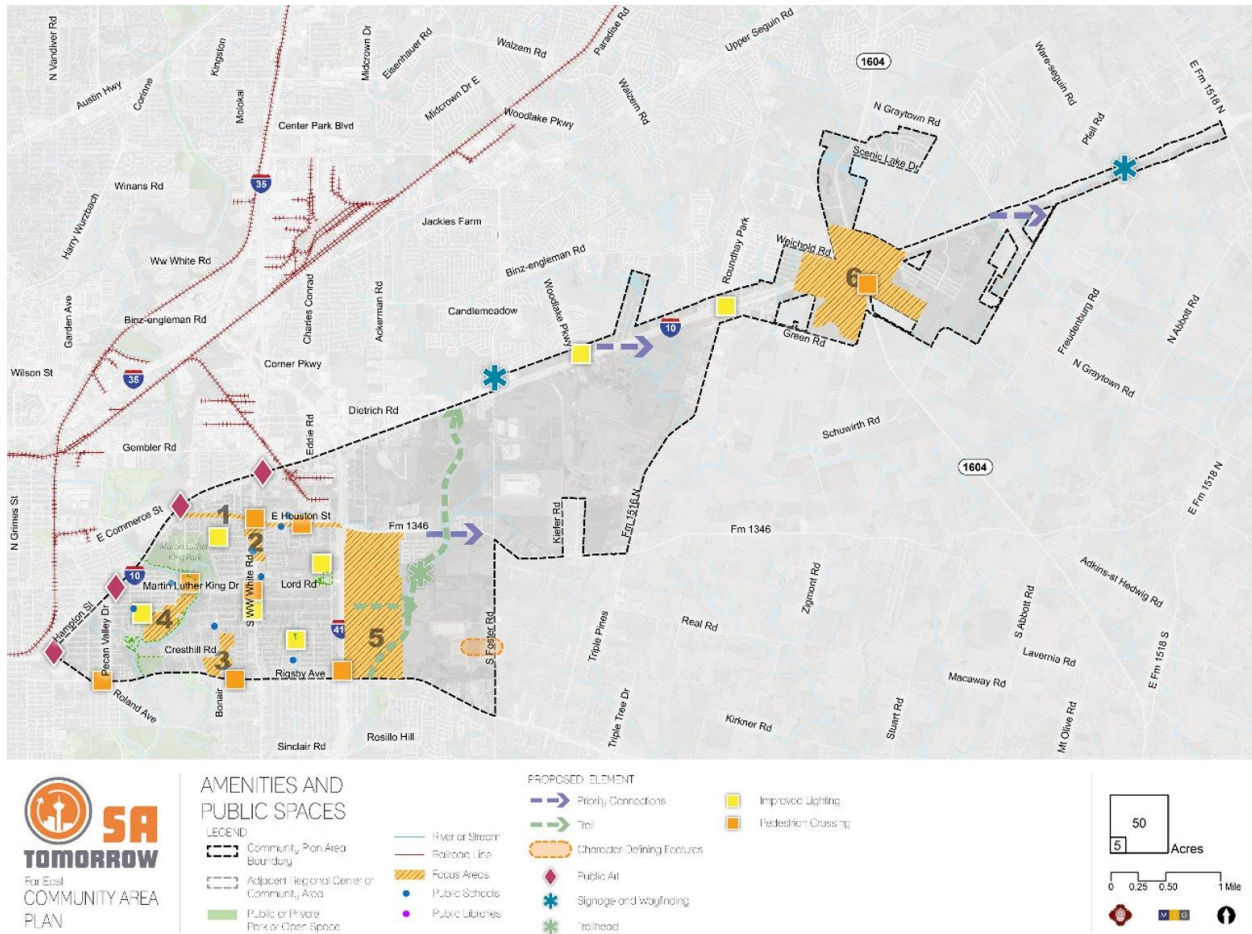
- Add GSI to curb cuts.
- Correct bus stop locations.

WW White HEB:

- Crossing like this is already in construction?
- Increase visibility for bicycles to people who are leaving driveways.



Draft Amenities and Public Spaces Priority Map



Planning Team Comments for Draft Amenities and Public Spaces Priority Map:

- Incorporate connections to both halves of the plan area.
- Add public art along E. Houston St.
- Include “ Urban Heat Island Mitigation” as an additional graphic on Amenities and Public Spaces Map on areas where we have identified bike/pedestrian corridors.



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 and Strategies #1:

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

- **APS Strategy 1.1:** Incorporate trees into streetscape enhancements and improvements.
- **APS Strategy 1.2:** Encourage planting of trees along the back of sidewalks on private property.
- **APS Strategy 1.3:** Create a neighborhood planting program to plant new trees and maintain existing ones.

Comments from the Planning Team regarding draft recommendation and strategies:

- Clarify public vs. private property.
- Educate private property owners on who's going to be responsible for maintenance.
- Tree lined streets will be part of 1.1.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation and Strategies #2:

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

- **APS Strategy 2.1:** Create new and enhance existing trail connections to allow all Far East residents to safely access parks and community facilities.
- **APS Strategy 2.2:** Prioritize trail connections that allow residents to efficiently and safely access key destinations like schools and grocery stores by foot or bike.
- **APS Strategy 2.3:** Enhance connections to and access points along existing and future trails.

Comments from the Planning Team regarding draft recommendation and strategies:

- How to connect past Loop 410.
- Study a connection between both halves of the plan area along the I-10 corridor – maybe a multi-use path.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation and Strategies #3:

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

- **APS Strategy 3.1:** Conduct a lighting study to identify gaps and potential improvements.
- **APS Strategy 3.2:** Work with developers to enhance lighting around public areas as part of new developments.
- **APS Strategy 3.3:** Integrate improved lighting into park maintenance and improvement projects.



Comments from the Planning Team regarding draft recommendation and strategies:

- Clarify both lighting fixtures and levels.
- Consider a glossary of terms – including lighting.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation and Strategies #4:

Establish and preserve community gardens at existing parks and open spaces.

- **APS Strategy 4.1:** Create programs to educate residents on how to effectively maintain and start a community garden.
- **APS Strategy 4.2:** Connect residents to resources and supplies to create community gardens.
- **APS Strategy 4.3:** Identify potential locations to create community gardens to help ensure that all Far East residents have equitable access to healthy food.

Comments from the Planning Team regarding draft recommendation and strategies:

- Clarify that community gardens can be in public places.
- 4.1 Important to stress that it leads to better health outcomes.

Amenities and Public Spaces Recommendation and Strategies #5:

Add multi-functional green infrastructure for stormwater mitigation and traffic calming.

- **APS Strategy 5.1:** Integrate green infrastructure improvements in street maintenance and improvement projects.
- **APS Strategy 5.2:** Prioritize green infrastructure improvements in flood-prone areas.
- **APS Strategy 5.3:** Incorporate green infrastructure in streetscape projects, especially near schools and parks to assist in traffic calming.

Comments from the Planning Team regarding draft recommendation and strategies:

- No comments received.

Next Steps

- **Planning Team Meeting #10** – Monday, August 14th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM via Zoom
- **Public Draft Release of the Far East Community Area Plan** – Fall/Winter

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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