

Greater Airport Area Regional Plan Meeting Summary: Planning Team Meeting 9

1.1 Date, Time, Location

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 9th, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

1.2 Project Staff

- Jacob Howard, Senior Planner, City of San Antonio Planning Department
- Jay Renkens, Principal, MIG
- Saul Vazquez, Senior Project Associate, MIG
- Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate, MIG
- Hannah Santiago, Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematic

1.3 Planning Team Attendees

[ATTENDANCE NOT FORMALLY TAKEN]

- Stephen McGuire, Walkers Ranch Neighborhood
- Ryan Hall, Aviation Department
- Joey Pawlick, Activate SA
- Marco Barros
- Karen Bishop
- Jeff Fair
- Donna Thompson
- Justin Crueger
- Isaac Levy
- Steve Southers
- Milee Ray
- Christine Vina
- Marilyn Jowdy
- Tom Marks
- Gary Gibbons
- Bryan Hummel
- Eloy LaQue
- Libby Day

1.4 Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the seventh Planning Team Meeting was to continue discussions about mobility, and Amenities and Public Space in the area, and briefly touch on the Neighborhood Profile and Priorities Section.

1.5 Meeting Agenda

- a. Reintroduction of Mobility Recommendations
- b. Updated Amenities & Public Space Map and Draft Strategies
- Overview of Neighborhood Profile and Priorities (NPP)



a. Reintroduction of Mobility Recommendations

Edits made to the Recommendations and Strategies for mobility were presented to the Planning Team. Edits are shown below in red and underlined following:

PRIORITIZE SAFE MOBILITY FOR ALL.

- Continue implementation of Vision Zero strategies (reduced speeds, narrow lanes) for key areas of conflicts between people driving, people walking and people bicycling
- Improve safety and reduce delay for crossings with at-grade railroads
- Eliminate low water crossings as roads are reconstructed

TRANSFORMS STREETS INTO ATTRACTIVE AND FUNCTIONAL MULTIMODAL ASSETS.

- Integrate green stormwater infrastructure <u>and street trees</u> into street reconstruction and traffic calming projects
- Add pedestrian crossing opportunities for people accessing transit, trailheads and school
- Improve walkability and multimodal accessibility of industrial sites and freight hubs to ensure access for freight workforce

SUPPORT FUTURE GROWTH WITH CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

- Reconnect neighborhoods through pedestrian scale improvements at intersections of highways and arterials
- Eliminate sidewalks gaps and ensure maintenance of existing sidewalks along multimodal corridors
- Provide contiguous protected bicycle infrastructure to connect neighborhoods north and south of the Airport
- <u>Develop connection from neighborhoods to access the trail network</u>

Planning Team Members noted the importance of making improvements to sites where fatalities have been reported. It was also noted that connections north and south of the airport is important. Understanding the origin of delays for railroads was identified as important point that needs additional research prior to identifying a specific implementing project. Access to transit was also noted as an important point to consider in the plan, especially multimodal access. Conflicts between multimodal transportation and industrial uses was highlighted as needing consideration especially as it related to insuring business owners who may be concerned with increased liability in case of an accident. Planning Team Members noted a need for connectivity to the Airport for multimodal transportation. Broadway just south of Loop 410 was also noted as an important place for improving pedestrian mobility.

Following the presentation of the Recommendations and Strategies, a draft Mobility Map was presented for comment, and suggested edits.

A series of graphics for showing potential mobility improvements at specific sites were presented, and discussed:

- Nacogdoches
- Sunset
- Bitter and US Highway 281
- Wetmore and Thousand Oaks
- West and Blanco

Planning Team members noted that plants included in any of these areas should be drought tolerant and native. One planning team member identified the sidewalk near the DoSeum as a successful site with include a planted strip. For the area along Nacogdoches, the VIA representative pointed out that bus stations in the area should be considered and noted, with pull-out space for buses not preferred as it slows service for riders. Artwork near the



intersection of US 281 and Bitters was noted as being at risk for damage or potentially contributing to accidents in the area. At the Nacogdoches site transportation department staff noted that raised crosswalks are typically on streets with less than three lanes and speed limits of less than thirty miles per hour.

b. Updated Amenities & Public Space Map and Draft Strategies

Types of Amenities and Public Spaces were represented and the draft amenities and public space map was shown to the team. Elements included on the map are the following:

- Parks
- Plazas
- Trails / Trailheads
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Improved Lighting
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Green Infrastructure
- Public Art
- Priority Connections
- Character Defining Features

Edits to the draft Recommendations and Strategies were also presented with new text shown underlined and in red and deleted text struck through as follows:

- APS Recommendation #1: Convert Promote development of underutilized parking lots into with community serving uses, development, and open spaces, with and amenities.
- APS Recommendation #2: Add protected crosswalks on busy streets to allow people to Safely connect from neighborhoods to community destinations with high visibility pedestrian crossings, improved lighting, enhanced sidewalks.
- APS Recommendation #3: Utilize green stormwater elements and Low Impact Development (LID) to beautify spaces, create buffers, and mitigate flooding.
- APS Recommendation #4: Create <u>indoor and outdoor</u> community gathering spaces, indoor and out, at key
 destinations <u>and at locations</u> with underutilized land to cultivate community connections and define <u>enhance</u>
 community character.
- APS Recommendation #5: Focus Prioritize public investments in locations to improve safety and aesthetics to serve for existing residents and businesses and to encourage private investments.

Strategies presented included the following:

- APS Strategy 1.1: Identify larger underutilized parking lots and initiate discussions with property owners.
- APS Strategy 1.2: Work with property owners to facilitate shared parking solutions that help meet demand with less overall parking supply.
- APS Strategy 1.3: Explore incentives to promote development of parking lots when projects create community benefits.
- APS Strategy 2.1: Prioritize access to shopping and activity centers, schools, parks, and open spaces with pedestrian crossing improvements, sidewalk enhancements, and trail connections.
- APS Strategy 2.2: Add people-scaled lighting along major roads and within neighborhoods.
- APS Strategy 2.3: Incorporate wayfinding signage for pedestrians and cyclists, especially leading to schools, parks, and other community destinations.



- APS Strategy 3.1: Integrate green infrastructure improvements in street maintenance and improvement projects.
- APS Strategy 3.2: Integrate green infrastructure elements and improvements in streets, parking lots, and landscaping.
- APS Strategy 3.3: Integrate Low Impact Development (LID) best practices to ensure new greenways and park space provide multiple benefits.
- APS Strategy 4.1: Work with developers and owners of larger properties to identify opportunities for new gathering spaces that are accessible to the public.
- APS Strategy 4.2: Engage the community in designing new or improved public spaces to ensure they reflect the people and culture of the area.
- APS Strategy 4.3: Integrate public art into community gathering spaces that helps to tell the story of the area.
- APS Strategy 5.1: Integrate safety elements, landscaping, and public art into maintenance and replacement projects.
- APS Strategy 5.2: Prioritize public improvement projects within and around identified focus areas and priority mobility areas as identified in this Plan.

Planning Team Members noted that improvements to sidewalks outside neighborhood s need concurrent improvements inside neighborhood to help residents access the connectivity. Shading in parking lots were also noted as important where they exist. Making lighting safe for wildlife and for aircraft was noted as important. Connecting neighborhoods to the greenway was supported, and a federal grant program was noted as being a specifically good opportunity to get funding. San Pedro Creek was noted as a great local example of investments made into a local creek. Having access to drinking water was noted as important for users of local trails and other public amenities.

c. Overview of Neighborhood Profile and Priorities (NPP)

A brief overview of the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities section of the plan was given to the Planning Team. The Section is meant to provide an additional opportunity for input from the community and specifically from registered Neighborhood Associations.

d. Next Steps

PLANNING TEAM MEETING 10 -- Planning Team Meeting #10 will be held virtually on Thursday, August 17th, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT -- Winter of 2023

COMMUNITY MEETING 4 -- Early 2024

PLANNING TEAM MEETING 11 -- Early 2024

PROJECT MANAGER: Jacob Howard, City of San Antonio Planning Department

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City of San Antonio
Planning Department
E: Jacob.Howard@SanAntonio.gov



Greater Airport Area Regional Center Planning Team

Meeting #9 July 20, 2023 Zoom 2:00 – 4:00 PM





Cambridge Systematics, Inc Bowti Economic & Planning Systems, Inc Auxiliary Marketing Service Mosaic Planning and Development Service

Greater Airport Area Project Team



City of San Antonio, Planning Department

Jacob Howard, Project Manager





Jay Renkens, AICP, Principal Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate Saul Vazquez, Senior Project Associate



Cambridge Systematics

Hannah Santiago, Senior Associate

Timeline of Meetings

PT Meeting 1 (Apr. 21st 2022)

Community Meeting 1 (June 7th 2022)

PT Meeting 2 (Jul. 12th 2022)

PT Meeting 3 (Aug. 11th 2022)

PT Meeting 4 (Sept. 15th 2022)

Community Meeting 2 (Nov. 3rd 2022)

PT Meeting 5 (Dec. 8th 2022)

PT Meeting 6 (Feb. 9th 2023)

PT Meeting 7 (Mar. 9th 2023)

Digital Design Workshop (Apr. 6th 2023)

Community Meeting 3 (May 9th 2023)

PT Meeting 8 (Jun. 22nd 2023)

PT Meeting 9 (Jul. 20th 2023)

PT Meeting 10 (Aug. 17th 2023)

Community Meeting 4 (TBD - Week of Dec. 4th 2023)

WE ARE HERE

PT Meeting 11 (Jan. 11th 2024)

Orientation; Sub-Area Plan Overview; SWOT; Vision and Goals

Confirm Vision & Goals; Land Utilization Analysis; Focus Area ID

Land Use (Housing & Economic Development Lens) (1 of 2)

Housing & Economic Development (Based on Land Use) (1 of 2)

Land Use (2 of 2), Housing and Economic Development (2 of 2)

Mobility (1 of 2)

Focus Areas, Amenities & Public Space Improvements

Review DDC results; Amenities and P.S.; Mobility & Streetscape Improvements

Rec and Strategies Refinement for Mobility and Amenities & P.S., NPPs

Plan Framework, DDC Updated Graphics

Public Draft Review & Final Revisions, Process Feedback

Meeting Objectives

1. Reintroduction of Mobility Recommendations

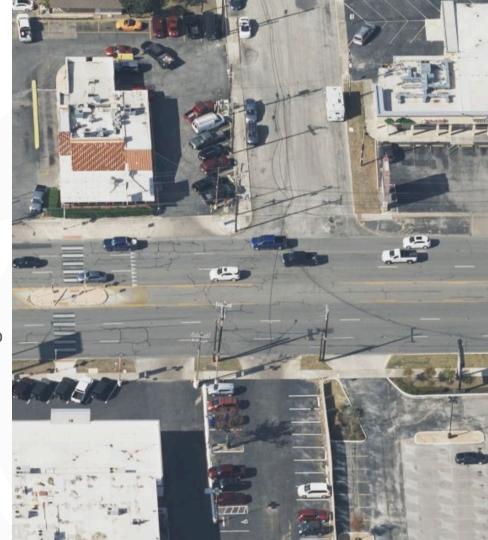
Review updated mobility recommendations, and introduction of the draft mobility map and graphics

2. Updated Amenities & Public Space Map and Draft Strategies

Review updated Amenities & Public Space map and introduction of draft strategies

3. Overview of Neighborhood Profile and Priorities (NPP)

Overview and status update of the NPP along with review of overarching themes



Vision

The Greater Airport Area Regional Center is a successful employment center with a variety of small and large businesses, including shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues, that serve the area's diverse, multi-generational, and safe neighborhoods, the City, and are compatible with Airport operations. The area develops sustainably, Residents and visitors enjoy a well-distributed and maintained parks, open space, and trail system, in addition to complete streets with safe and connected pedestrian, bicycle and transit options.

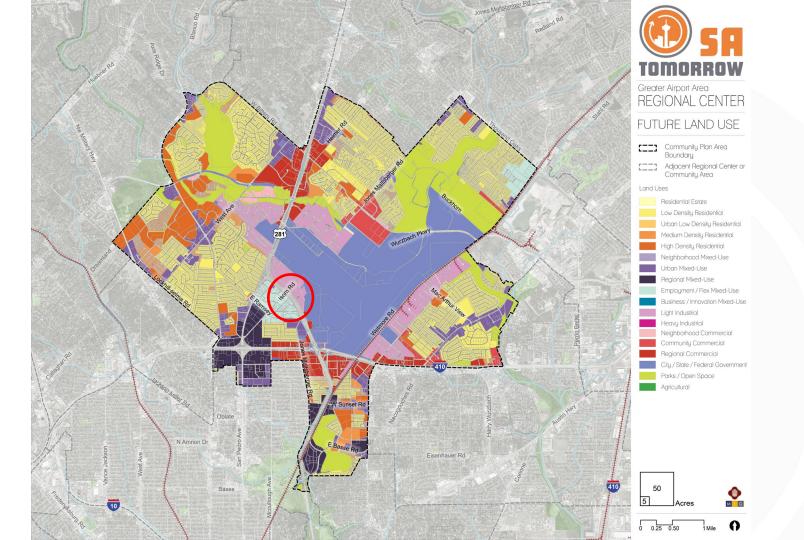
Goals (1/2)

- Create safe and vibrant destinations with a diversity of strategically located and high-quality housing, employment, and mixed-use developments that respects existing neighborhoods, avoid conflict with, and support the Airport.
- 2. Improve existing streets and create new connections that are truly multimodal, aesthetically pleasing and provide sustainable stormwater benefits.
- 3. Increase equitable access to parks, open space, and trails and recreational amenities throughout the Regional Center.
- 4. Address safety concerns and barriers created by transportation infrastructure of all types throughout the Regional Center.

Goals (2/2)

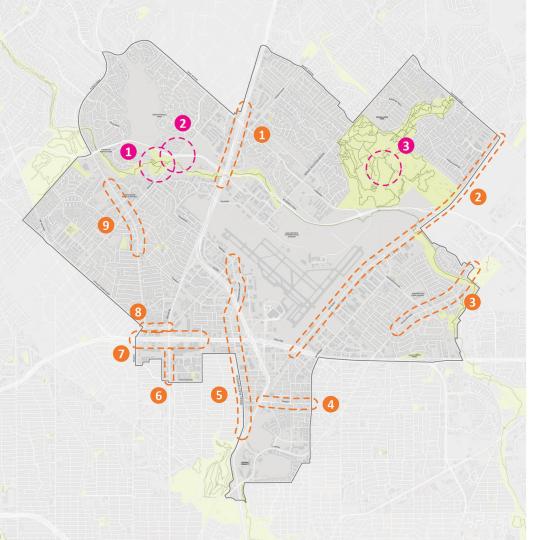
- 5. Improve comfort, safety and aesthetics throughout the Regional Center with trees, other urban greening, and integration of sustainable infrastructure.
- 6. Enhance transit connections to amenities within the Greater Airport Regional Center, to Downtown, and to other Regional Centers in and outside of San Antonio for residents, employees and visitors.
- 7. Promote quality infill development and redevelopment within neighborhoods and commercial areas that are compatible with existing homes and provides more housing options for existing and new residents.











Mobility Sites

- US 281
 Address barriers for pedestrians and vehicular access from Wurzbach to US 281
- WETMORE
 Opportunity for mobility improvements
 including trails/bike lanes. Important
 route for industrial and freight traffic
- NACODOCHES
 Potential site of main street developemnt with access to Salado Creek Greenway
- SUNSET
 Address street design and improve infrasturctue and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists
- JONES MALTSBERGER
 Address growing use as north-south
 connector and potential for multi-modal
 transportation use
- SAN PEDRO
 Improve safety and address maintenance issues, and invest that supports ongoing VIA ART project
- LOOP 410
 Address 410 as a north-south barriers for Pedestrians, Cyclists and other modes of transportation. Address access to North Star Transit Center
- LOCKHILL SELMA
 Opportunity for complete street, with close proximity to offices and hotels
- BLANCO
 Address pedestrian safety especially for students at Churchill High School and Eisenhower Middle School

2022 Bond Projects

- WALKER RANCH PARK
 Construct general park and rehabilitation
 improvements within available funding
 which may include park connectivity
 improvements.
 - DISTRICT 9 PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY
 Construct pedestrian mobility improvement projects as applicable and within
 available funding.
- MCALLISTER PARK
 Construct general park improvements
 within available funding to include
 mountain bike trails and rehabilitation
 of park features as applicable.

Prioritize safe mobility for all.

- Continue implementation of Vision Zero strategies
 (reduced speeds, narrow lanes) for key areas of conflicts
 between people driving, people walking and people bicycling
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Transforms streets into attractive and functional multimodal assets.

- Integrate green stormwater infrastructure and street trees into street reconstruction and traffic calming projects
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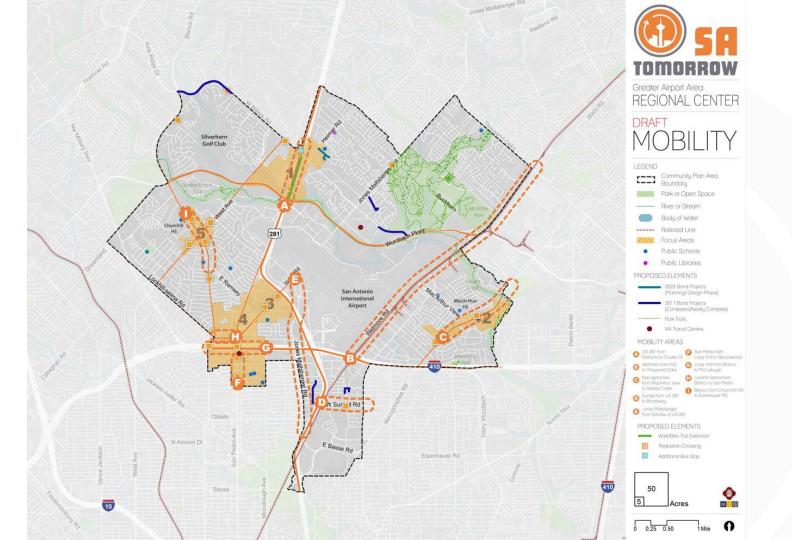
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Support future growth with connected transportation network.

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Nacogdoches- Existing Conditions



Nacogdoches- Mobility Recommendations Applied



Sunset Road- Existing Conditions



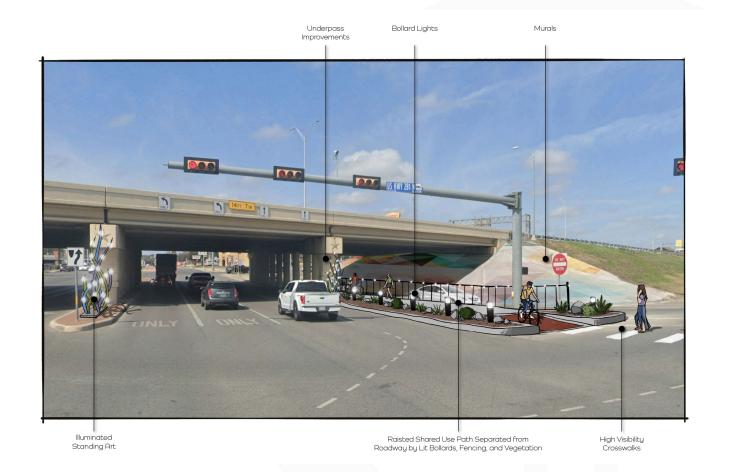
Sunset Road- Mobility Recommendations Applied



Bitters & Hwy 281- Existing Conditions



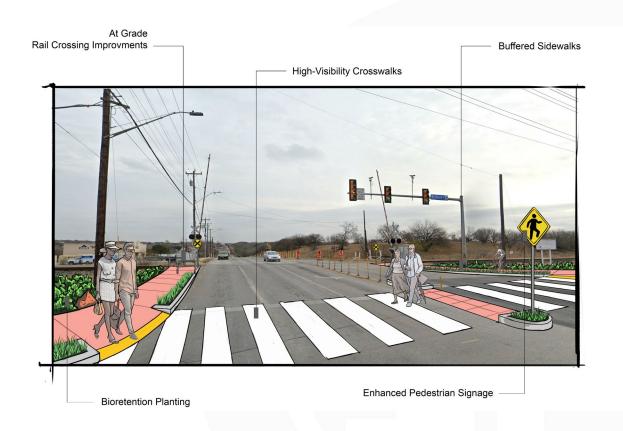
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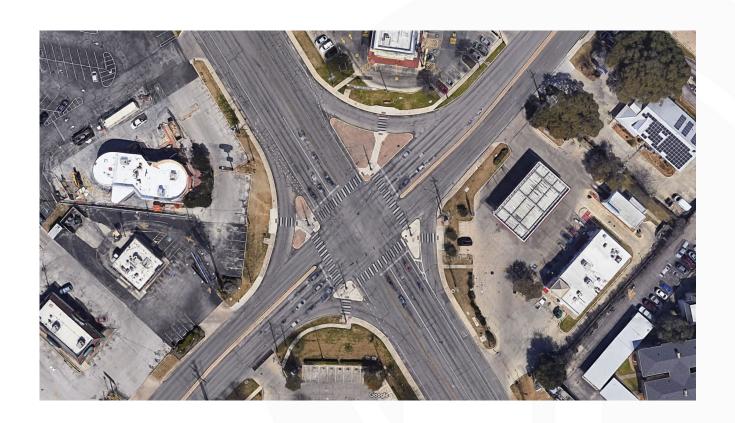
Wetmore & Thousand Oaks- Existing Conditions



Wetmore & Thousand Oaks- Mobility Recommendations Applied



West Ave & Blanco- Existing Conditions



West Ave & Blanco- Mobility Recommendations Applied





Amenities & Public Spaces (Continued from PT#8)





What We've Been Hearing

Amenities & Public Space Themes

Parks for neighborhood kids.

Protect people walking and running from traffic.

Signage for deer crossings on Wurzbach.

Improve MacArthur Park Provide greenery along creeks and drainage. Keep it natural vs. concrete.

Trails are great.

Signage for Walker Ranch.

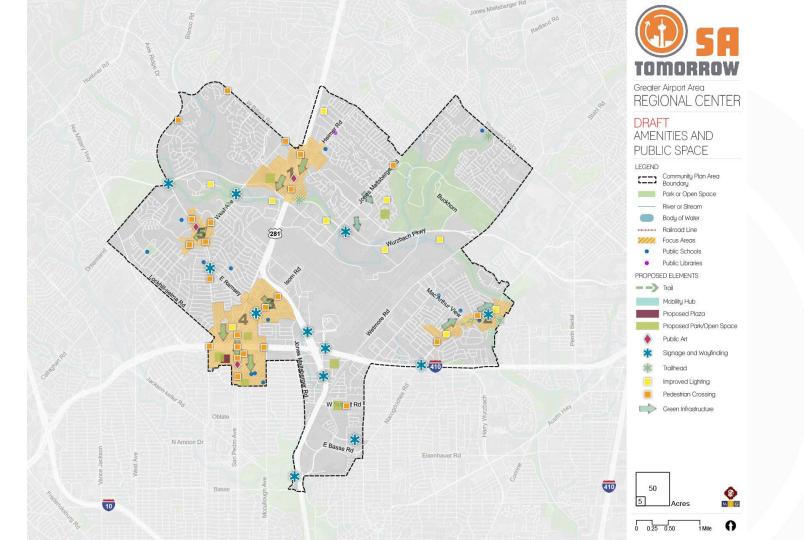
Reduce noise from Loop 410.

Keep tree canopy on Starcrest and Jones Maltsberger.

Type of Amenities & Public Spaces

- PARKS
- PLAZAS
- TRAILS / TRAILHEADS ----
- SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING
- IMPROVED LIGHTING
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
- GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- PUBLIC ART
- PRIORITY CONNECTIONS
- CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES





Draft Amenities & Public Space Recommendations

- APS Recommendation #1: Convert Promote development of underutilized parking lots into with community serving uses, development and open spaces, with and amenities.
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community benefits.

#1: Promote
development of
underutilized parking
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APS Strategy 1.1: Identify larger underutilized parking lots and initiate discussions with property owners.

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#2: Safely connect neighborhoods to community destinations with high visibility pedestrian crossings, improved lighting, enhanced sidewalks.

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Neighborhood Profile and Priorities (NPP)





What are Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities (NPP)?

Section of Plan that:

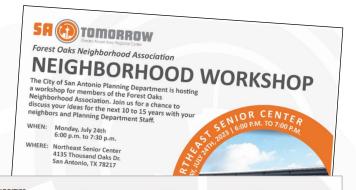
- Provides special attention to individual neighborhood priorities
- Summarize specific opportunities, challenges, recommendations,
 and priorities from each participating neighborhood
- Efficiently direct public and private investment within the city to help these neighborhoods achieve their short-term goals and longterm visions

Key Components of NPPs

- Neighborhood Snapshots: Background about people and places that make up the participating neighborhoods
- Strengths: Existing assets to protect, enhance and build upon
- Opportunities and Challenges: Existing issues and potential changes (good and bad) that can be addressed and leveraged to improve the neighborhood
- Priorities: Articulates the physical, programmatic and policy improvements most important to the neighborhood

Neighborhoods

- Arboretum
- Blossom Park
- Crownhill Park
- Forest Oaks
- Greater Harmony Hills
- Shearer Hills /Ridgeview
- North Castle Hills
- The Woodlands of Camino Real







Next Steps

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Planning Team Meeting #10 August 17, 2023
- Public Draft Winter 2023
- Community Meeting #4 Early 2024
- Planning Team Meeting #11 Early 2024

QUESTIONS?

Jacob Howard, City of San Antonio Jacob.Howard@SanAntonio.gov (210) 207-5441



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