

# **Greater Airport Area Regional Plan Meeting Summary: Planning Team Meeting 10**

### 1.1 Date, Time, Location

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 17th, 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
- Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate, MIG
- Hannah Santiago, Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematic

### 1.3 Planning Team Attendees

[ATTENDANCE NOT FORMALLY TAKEN]

- Jeff Fair, SA Chamber of Commerce
- Marco Barros, Bluffview Resident
- Joey Pawlick, Activate SA
- Marilyn Jowdy, Blossom Park Neighborhood Association
- Donna Thompson, Arboretum Neighborhood Association / Bluffview
- Libby Day, Shearer Hills / Ridgeview Neighborhood Association
- Brian Hummel, Resident
- Karen Bishop
- Stephen McGuire, Walkers Ranch Neighborhood
- Laura Parker
- Pam Peck
- Gary Gibbons, Greater Harmony Hills Neighborhood Association
- Christine Vina

### 1.4 Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the tenth Planning Team Meeting was to cover amenities and public space in the sub-area for the first time, additionally edits to the Vision and Goals were presented along with statements relating to amenities.

### 1.5 Meeting Agenda

- a. Reintroduction of Digital Design Charette Graphics
- b. Reintroduction of APS Recommendations and Strategies
- c. Introduction of Draft Plan Framework Map
- d. Introduce the Plan Framework Map.
- e. Discussion of Implementation Strategy

#### a. Reintroduction of Digital Design Charette Graphics

Edits to the two Digital Design Charette sites made based on Planning Team Meeting comments were presented at the meeting.

City of San Antonio SA Tomorrow Planning Department Greater Airport Area Regional Center Plan Meeting

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#### **Digital Design Charette Site 1 North Park Shopping Center:**

Planning Team noted that the Pedestrian Bridge shown linking the North Star Transit Center and the North Park shopping center would support transit riders access to the Park North site, but would not facilitate connection across San Pedro for those trying to travel from North Star Mall to Park North Shopping Center. It was suggested that the bridge be moved south over the intersection of San Pedro and entrance to the mall. It was also noted that the bridge could double as a gateway feature into the area and should include a public art component in its design. ADA accessibility was also noted as important to focus on in the design of the bridge, as was improving ADA access to North Star mall. Further pedestrian safety in general at intersections was highlighted as important.

The need for green infrastructure was noted in especially as it relates to mitigating for storm water runoff on site in areas that contribute to flooding downstream. Planning Team Members also noted that solar panels over parking may be funded through grants and other outside sources. Planning Team members also noted the need to address stormwater runoff by maintaining onsite holding ponds and managing impervious cover.

Additional tree cover was suggested in parking lots for the site, to match the amount of cover shown in the rendering for DDC site 2, as a way to help mitigate for heat island effects.

#### Digital Design Charette Site 2 Burlington/AutoFit Site:

Adaptive reuse of structures was suggested as preferred where buildings are still in good shape. Similarly the a preference for additional green infrastructure that aligns with channelized and buried creeks, as opposed to green space that is strictly for passive recreation and aesthetic benefits.

A connection to the Salado Creek Greenway was highlighted as a potential opportunity to the southern end of the site, although it was noted that the area is complicated, and it would require reconfiguration of the roads in the area. Similarly, the intersection of Wurzbach and US 281 was pointed out as difficult and dangerous to navigate.

Finding opportunities for structured parking in the area was an alternative suggested by the Planning Team, similarly, adding cover to parking lots that could also include solar panel was suggested. Burring any new parking structures was suggested.

### b. Reintroduction of Amenities and Public Space (APS) Recommendations and Strategies

Amenities and Public Space Recommendations were represented. They include:

- APS Recommendation #1: Promote development of underutilized parking lots with community serving uses, open spaces, and amenities.
- APS Recommendation #2: Safely connect 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 indoor and outdoor community gathering spaces at key destinations and at locations with underutilized land to cultivate community connections and enhance community character.
- APS Recommendation #5: Prioritize public investments in locations to improve safety and aesthetics for existing residents and businesses and to encourage private investments.

Following the presentation of these recommendations edits to the implementing strategies were presented. The revised amenities and public space strategies are:

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 1.4: Create neighborhood sidewalk connections to new community serving uses.
- APS Strategy 1.5: Conduct an inventory of large or underutilized parking lots.
- 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 2.4: Provide shade at shopping center parking lots that won't be redeveloped in the near future.
- APS Strategy 2.5: Consider downward facing lighting for wildlife and airport operations.
- 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 4.4: Provide shade at connections between neighborhoods and different destinations.
- APS Strategy 4.5: Provide water fountains to people to stay hydrated during warmer seasons.
- 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 where lighting is suggested eliminating glare and reducing lights shining in drivers' eyes as well as on private property late at night should be avoided and taken into consideration when designing or selecting fixtures.

### c. Reintroduction of Individual Plan Elements Maps

A brief review of the plan "elements" and maps was presented. This includes the draft future land use map, the draft focus areas maps for each of the plans five focus areas, a draft of the mobility map, and a draft of the amenities and public space map. Pedestrian and Bicycle connectivity from inside loop 410 to Salado Creek was highlighted as needed and was identified as needed on the map.



Planning Team Members noted that for the Amenities and Public Space map, screening along Wurzbach Parkway where it travels through industrial areas like between Jones Maltsberger and Starcrest and near West Ave. was important to the community.

### a. Introduce the Plan Framework Map

Following the presentation of each plan elements maps, a "Plan Framework" map was presented for the first time, that include some items identified on the plan element maps for prioritization. Staff reviewed the map, and the planning team was able to suggest edits and improvements.

Broadway corridor was highlighted as needing attention just south of Loop 410 where it forms the boundary of the plan shared with the upcoming Near Northeast Community Area Plan, a Phase 4 Sub-area Plan. The are is highlighted as an important north-south connector that is not functioning well today.

Focusing on trials and connecting trails to throughout the area was noted as important and a need to be clear about potential future opportunities that combined with the vision was noted. Identification of Sunset Road as a Main Street was supported by Planning Team Members who noted its existing character as supporting the place type. Connectivity on Basse was also noted as important to neighborhoods to the south of the area that may pass through the area traveling to the trail head near Basse and US 281.

### e. Discussion of Implementation Strategy

After discussing the Plan Framework Map a list of items included on that map were presented to the Planning Team for prioritization. Staff worked with the Planning Team to identify a rough set of "Key Stakeholders," "Funding," and "Timing."

Planning Team Members pointed out that state funding could be used to leverage federal funding sources. A connection to NorthStar Mall was identified as needed in the area. Federal Funding administered through the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) was identified as applicable for several transportation improvements.

An interchange between Wurzbach and US 281 was noted as an important item that should be added. Some planning team members noted that the list was not what they had expected and they were expecting see more items that related to the neighborhoods and the Focus Areas which had been were not noted.

#### f. Next Steps

PLAN SECTIONS RELEASE - Fall/Winter 2023

**PUBLIC DRAFT** – Winter 2023

**COMMUNITY MEETING #4** – Early 2024

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #11 – Early 2024

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

EMAIL -- jacob.howard@sanantonio.gov

PHONE -- (210) 207-5441



Greater Airport Area Regional Center

Planning Team

Meeting #10

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Zoom
2 – 4 PM





Cambridge systematics, in Bowt Economic & Planning Systems, in Auxiliary Marketing Service Iosaic Planning and Development Service

## **Greater Airport Area Project Team**



### City of San Antonio, Planning Department

Jacob Howard, Project Manager



### MIG

Jay Renkens, AICP, Principal Marco Hinojosa, Senior Project Associate (Interim PM)



### **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. 12<sup>th</sup> 2022)

PT Meeting 3 (Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> 2022)

PT Meeting 4 (Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 2022)

Community Meeting 2 (Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022)

PT Meeting 5 (Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 2022)

PT Meeting 6 (Feb. 9th 2023)

PT Meeting 7 (Mar. 9th 2023)

Digital Design Workshop (Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> 2023)

Community Meeting 3 (May 9<sup>th</sup> 2023)

**PT Meeting 8 (Jun. 22nd 2023)** 

PT Meeting 9 (Jul. 20<sup>th</sup> 2023)

PT Meeting 10 (Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 2023)

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

WE ARE HERE

PT Meeting 11 (Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

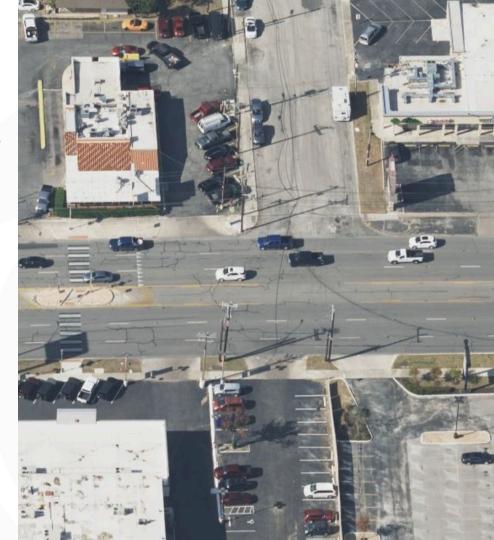
Focus Areas, Amenities & Public Space Improvements

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 Digital Design Charette Graphics
  Review the updated graphics created from the digital design
  charrette and reviewed during PT meeting #8.
- 2. Reintroduction of APS Recommendations and Strategies Review and confirm edits to recommendations and strategies presented during PT#9.
- 3. Reintroduction of Individual Plan Elements
  Maps Review the updated land use, focus area, APS, and mobility maps.
- 4. Introduction of Draft Plan Framework Map Introduce the Plan Framework Map and provide input on the elements shown.
- 5. Discussion of Implementation Strategy
  Begin to identify key stakeholders, timing, and funding strategies.



### **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)

- 1. 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.
- 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.









Greater Airport Area: Focus Area 1 – North Park Shopping Center



















Greater Airport Area: Focus Area 2 – Burlington/Autofit



















Amenities & Public Spaces (Continued from PT#9)





## **Amenities & Public Space Recommendations**

- **APS Recommendation #1:** Promote development of underutilized parking lots with community serving uses, open spaces, and amenities.
- **APS Recommendation #2:** Safely connect 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 indoor and outdoor community gathering spaces-at key destinations and at locations with underutilized land to cultivate community connections and enhance community character.
- **APS Recommendation #5:** Prioritize public investments in locations to improve safety and aesthetics for existing residents and businesses and to encourage private investments.

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**APS Strategy 2.2:** Add people-scaled lighting along major roads and within neighborhoods.

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**APS Recommendation #5:** Prioritize public investments in locations to improve safety and aesthetics for existing residents and businesses and to encourage private investments.

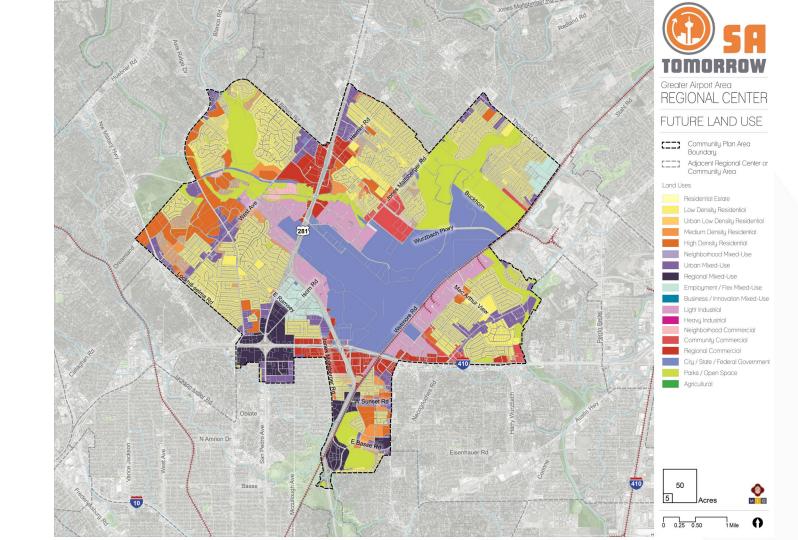
**APS Strategy 5.1:** Integrate safety elements, landscaping, and public art into maintenance and replacement projects.

**APS Strategy 5.2:** Prioritize public improvement projects within and around identified focus areas and priority mobility areas as identified in this Plan.



Previous Land Use, Focus Areas, APS, and Mobility Maps









Greater Airport Area REGIONAL CENTER PLAN FOCUS AREA 1: BITTERS AND 281

LEGEND



Community Plan Area
Boundary

Park or Open Space



Body of Water



FEMA 100-year Floodplain

FOCUS AREA RECOMMENDATIONS



- Priority Connections



Proposed Plaza or Park/Open Space



Pedestrian Crossing













Greater Airport Area REGIONAL CENTER PLAN FOCUS AREA 2: NACOGDOCHES

LEGEND

Community Plan Area Boundary

Park or Open Space

Stream, Creek or River Body of Water

Focus Area

FEMA 100-year Floodplain

FOCUS AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

- Priority Connections

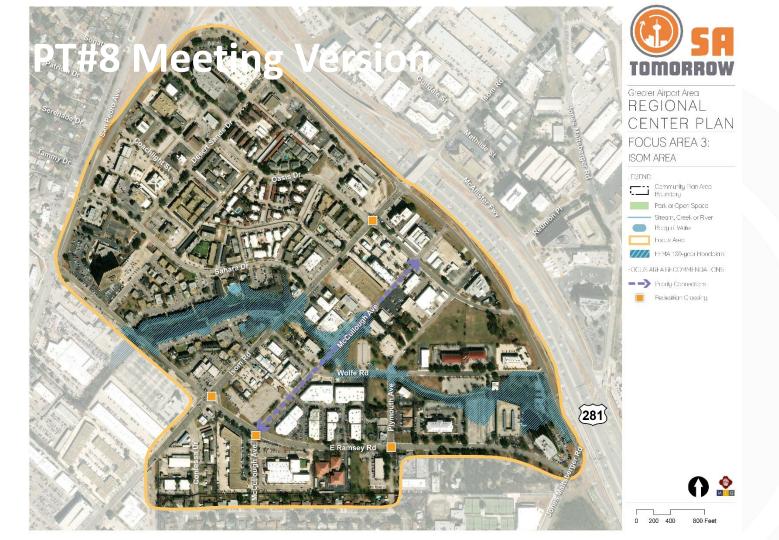
Pedestrian Crossing

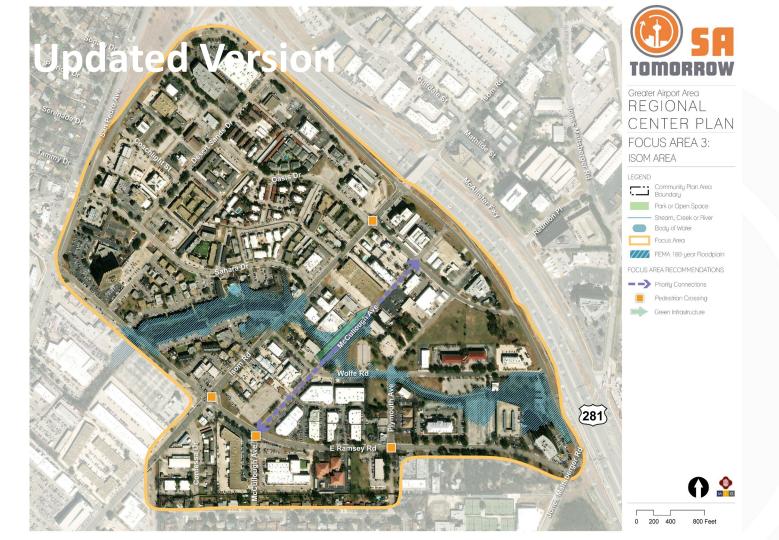


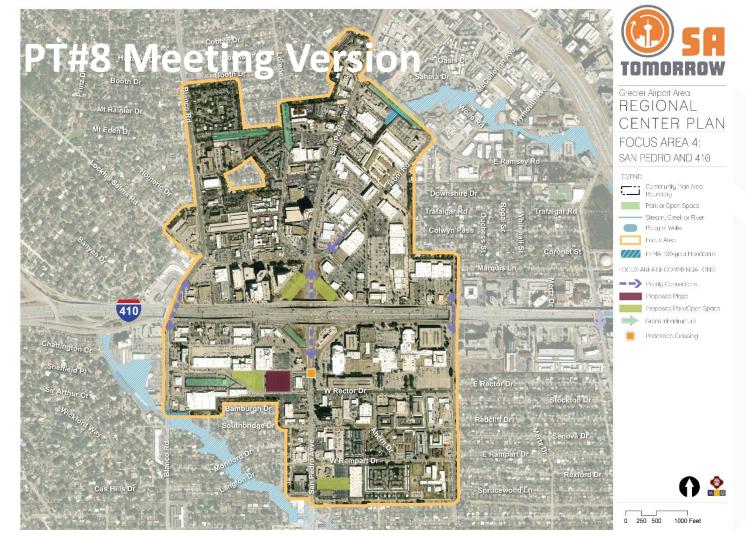


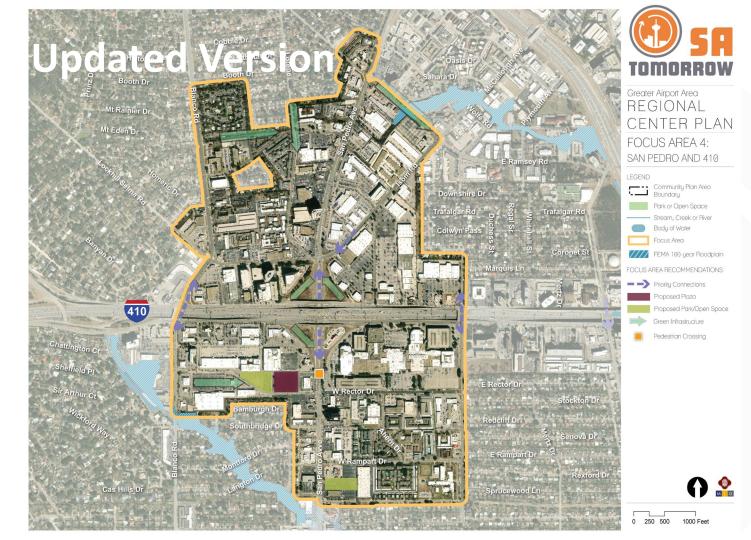


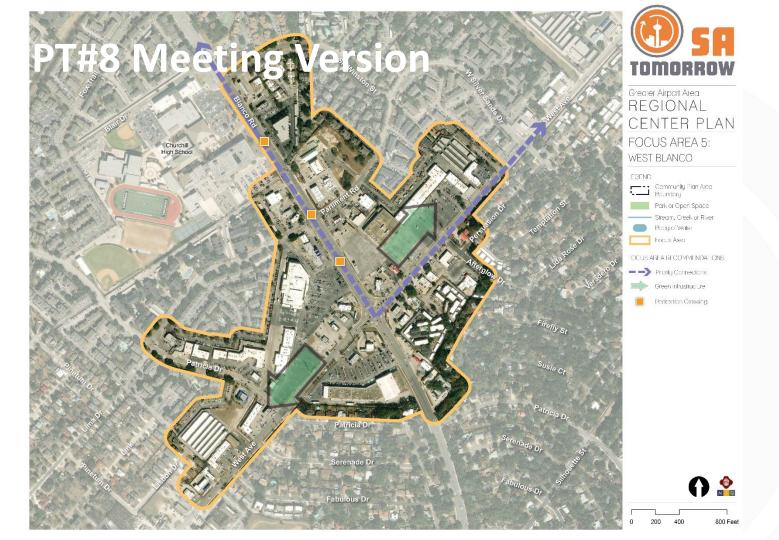
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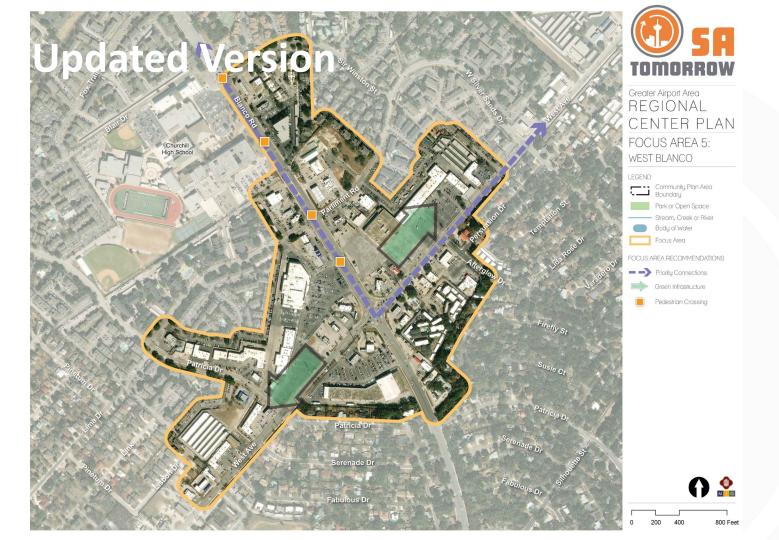


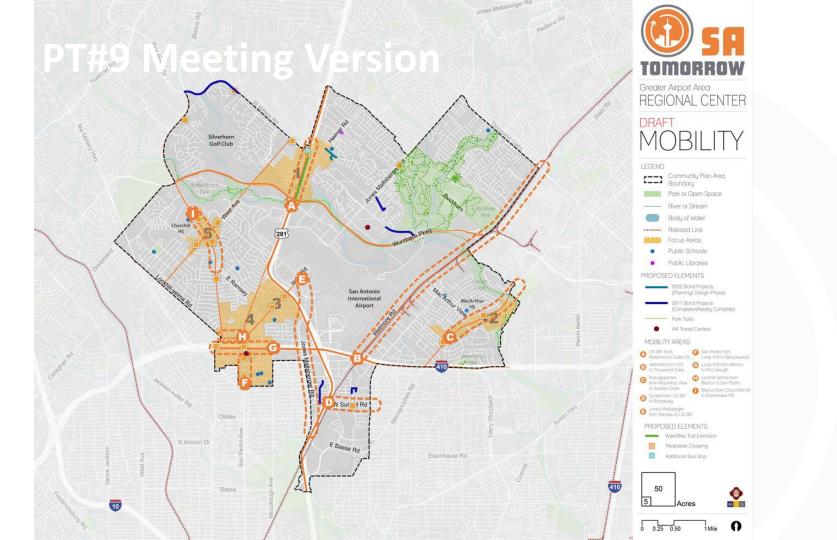


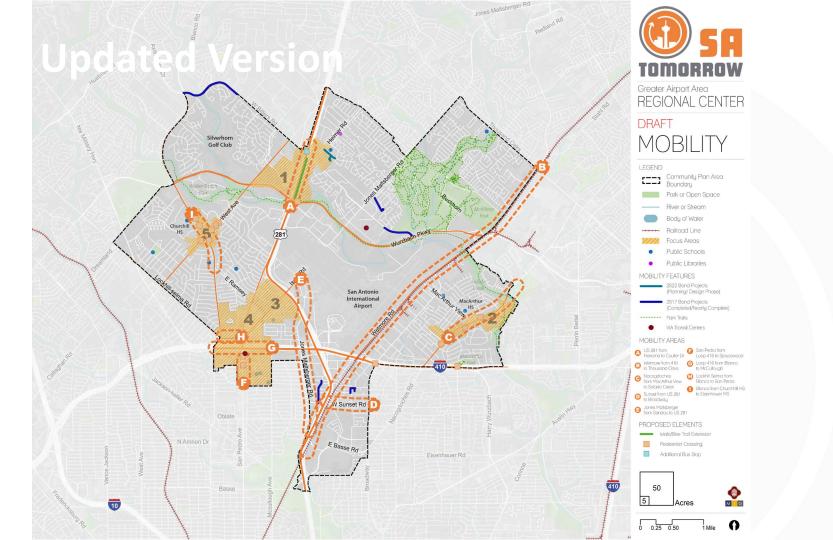


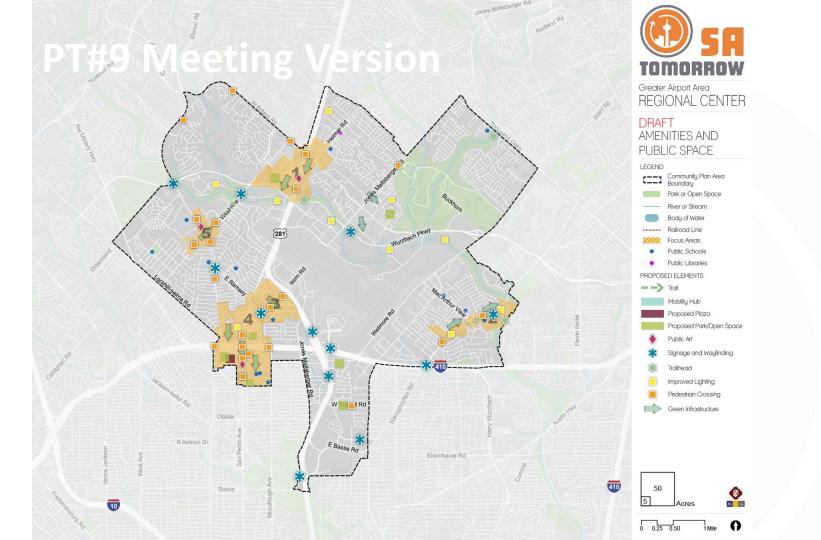


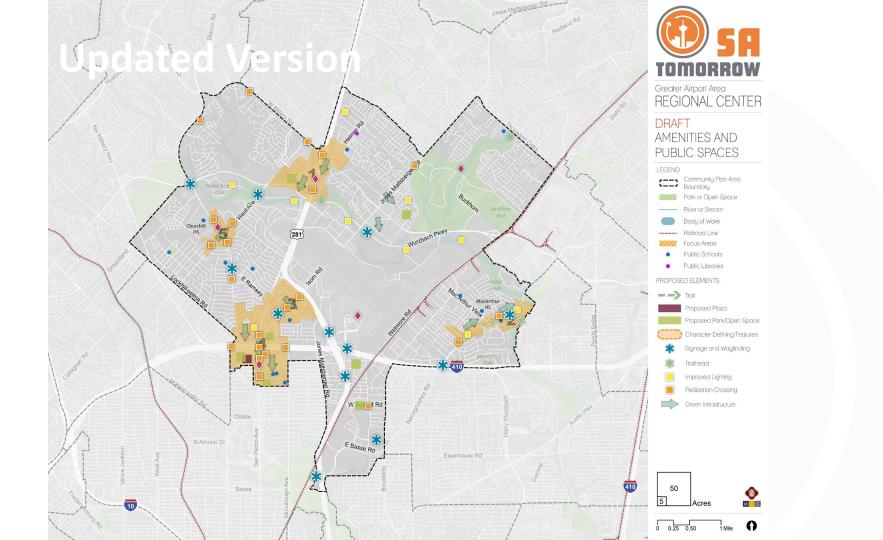


















# **Plan Framework Map Elements**



Trail



Trailhead



**Green Infrastructure** 



Proposed Park/Open Space



**Proposed Plaza** 



**Priority Connection** 



Signage and Wayfinding



**Improved Lighting** 



**Pedestrian Crossing** 



**Mobility Hub** 



Gateway



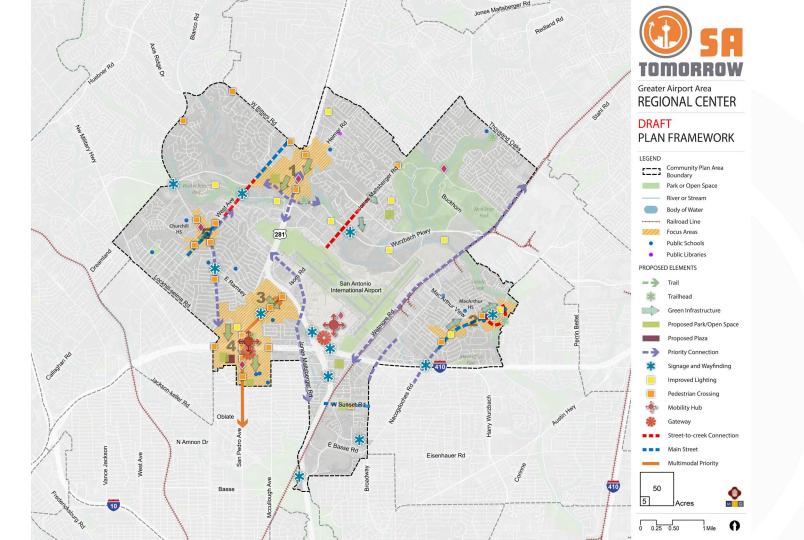
Street-to-creek Connection



Main Street



**Multimodal Priority** 











## **Funding Opportunities**

#### 1. City Funding Sources

- Bond
- Community Development Block Grant
- City Council Project Fund
- Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP)

#### 2. State Funding Sources

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)
   Program

#### 3. Federal Funding Sources

- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Planning Grants and Capital Construction Grants
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

### Implementation of Plan Framework Map

Project	Key Stakeholders	Funding	Timing
Mobility Hub North of Loop 410 and San Pedro			
Gateway Improvements at Loop 410 and 281			
Public Art Near Churchill High School			
Multiple Pedestrian Crossings Along West Avenue			
Wayfinding Signage Around the Airport			
Proposed Plaza West of San Pedro			
Improved Lighting Along Trails Near Wurzbach Parkway			
Multiple Pedestrian Crossings Along Nacogdoches Road			
Green Infrastructure Around MacArthur High School			
Multi-Modal Improvements Along San Pedro Avenue			
???			





### **Next Steps**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Plan Sections Release Fall/Winter 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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