



Planning Team Meeting 6 Summary

1.1 Date, Time, Location

- Meeting Date: February 9, 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
- Krystin Ramirez, Project Manager, MIG
- Hannah Santiago, Cambridge Systematics

1.3 Planning Team Attendees

[ATTENDANCE NOT FORMALLY TAKEN]

- Christina Castaño, VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Marco Barros, Bluffview Resident
- Justin Cruger, VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority
- Libby Day, Shearer Hills / Ridgeview Neighborhood Association
- Jeff Fair, SA Chamber of Commerce
- Gary Gibbons, Greater Harmony Hills Neighborhood Association
- Ryan Hall, Aviation Department
- Josh Heiss, Aviation Department
- Marilyn Jowdy, Blossom Park Neighborhood Association
- Donna Thompson, Bluffview of Camino Real Neighborhood

1.4 Meeting Objectives

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

1.5 Meeting Agenda

- a. Introductions
 - Icebreaker: How Do You Get Around
 - Vision & Goals
- b. Mobility
 - Mobility Overview: Assets and Challenges
 - Mobility Opportunities
- c. Next Steps

a. Introductions

Project Staff was introduced.

Icebreaker: “How do you get around the area?”

Planning Team Members were asked, “How do you get around the area?” Of the 15 Planning Team Members who responded, 14 reported driving as their primary mode of transportation and 1 reported using Public Transportation

including VIA's Para-trans service, in addition to walking and taking rideshares. Some Planning Team Members noted Wurzbach Parkway as a major improvement that benefits the area but noted the lack of an interchange with US 281 as missing improvement that could benefit drivers. Some Planning Team Members noted that the area has an extensive trails system that is a multimodal benefit although no Planning Team Member used the trails network as their primary way of getting around the area. One Planning Team Member stated that they do bike in the area, but not as their primary mode of transport, stating the lack of cycling infrastructure and unsafe conditions as an impediment to potential users. The representative for North Star Mall noted that customers and employees of the mall and its tenants use a range of transportation options, the representative for the hotel and lodging association noted that same, adding that the North Star Transit Center was particularly important for local workers, and hotels will use their shuttle to pick-up / drop-off employees from the center. Similarly, Airport staff highlighted that Airport Employees use a diversity of modes including transit. Rideshares were noted as critical for Airport Passengers that is a relatively new development that should be considered in the process.

Vision and Goals

Vision and Goals were re-presented to the Planning Team with edits. The vision was edited to include a statement the area "Develops Sustainably," The statement about streets was edited to remove the word comfortable, and add the word connected. Mobility related sections of the Vision and Goal include those highlighted below and edits are shown in red.

Figure: Meeting Slides: Draft Vision

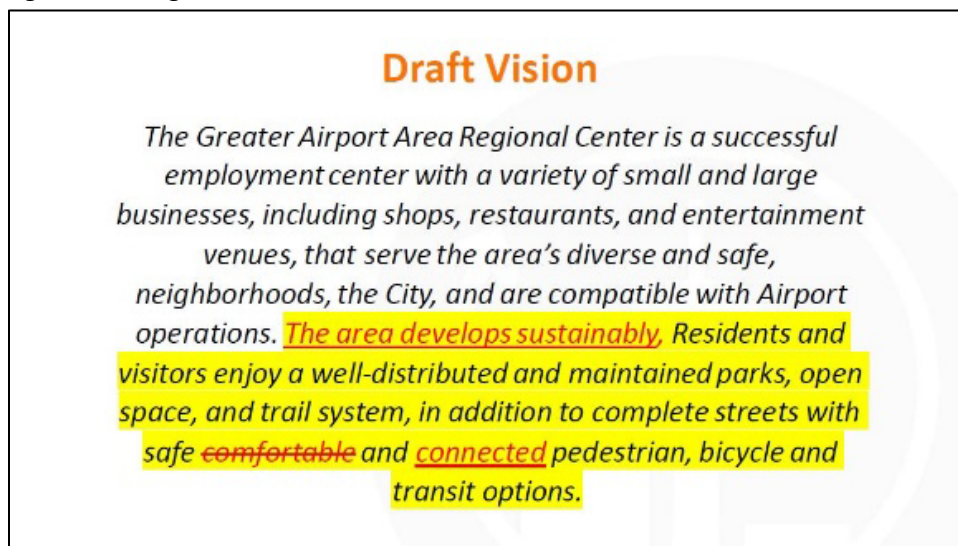


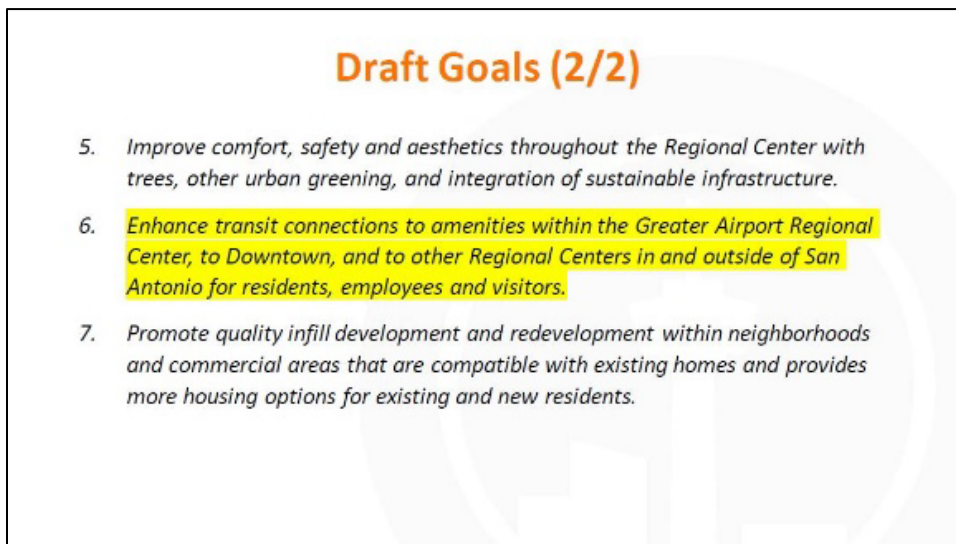
Figure: Meeting Slides: Draft Goals (1/2)



Draft 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.
4. Address safety concerns and barriers created by transportation infrastructure of all types throughout the Regional Center.

Figure: Draft Goals (2/2)



Draft 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.

b. Mobility

Mobility Overview: Assets and Challenges

Additionally, a list of Sub-area Mobility “Assets and Challenges” developed by staff was also presented to the Planning Team (listed below.) This list is meant to reflect themes that have been identified by the public, or issues that may be contributing to issues raised by the community.

Assets:

- Access to Other Parts of The City
- Central Location
- Trail Network
- San Antonio International Airport
- North Star Transit Center

Challenges:

- Connectivity Withing the Sub-Area
- Limited Pedestrian and Bicyclist Amenities, Such as Sidewalks and Protected Bike Lanes Challenge
- Multi-Modal Connectivity
- Roadways That are Stressful Environments for People Biking & Walking
- Large Blocks

Mobility Challenges

A Brief overview of general mobility issues to consider during the planning process was presented to the Planning Team along with a short explanation as to how preliminary priority sites for mobility intervention were selected. A short “icebreaker” exercise then followed, where Planning Team Members were asked to consider and rank the following mobility related issues:

- Rising Household Transportation Costs
- Providing More Comfortable Spaces for Walking and Biking
- Capacity on Roadways and Bridges for Vehicles
- Providing More Transit Options
- Aging Population
- Aging and Deteriorating Roads and Bridges
- Handling More Trucks
- Safe Travel
- Intro. of Self-Driving Vehicles
- Money to Maintain and Improve the Transportation System.
- Increasing Traffic/Congestion Delays
- Protecting Cultural, Historic, And Natural Resources
- Providing Connections Between Modes
- Bouncing Back from Extreme Weather Events
- Increase In Electric and Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Mobility Opportunities

To help collect input from the Planning Team on which sites in the area need mobility investments, Cambridge Systematics presented a map of street that included information on which sites have, potential funding sources, safety issues like crashes between cars and with pedestrians and/or maintenance issues. Planning Team Members were asked to consider the area and their needs along with data relating to the mapping activity and help ID sites that should be called out in the plan for additional investments.

- Pedestrian Infrastructure and access around San Pedro
- Connectivity for Bicycles across Loop 410 especially to Blanco which has existing bike lanes from Eisenhower to 410
- Connecting McAllister Park to the region with cycling infrastructure
- Include bike lanes on McCullough.
- On West Ave. sidewalks are improving, but issues with drainage where bike-lanes and sidewalks flood.
- Opportunity to address street-level flooding by adding bioswale, stormwater bump out, and street tree well construction along the contributing streets.
- Competing interests around McAllister Park between cyclists and driver opportunity for special connection for cyclist directly to bike lanes
- Bus stops on Blanco are being upgraded but passengers must cross up-to 5 lanes of traffic in places.

c. Next Steps

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #7 Planning Team Meeting #7 will be held virtually on Thursday, March 9th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

DIGITAL DESIGN CHARRETTE (DDC) The Digital Design Charrette will be held virtually on Thursday, April 6th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

COMMUNITY MEETING #3 Community Meeting #3 will be held at the Piper-Bass Memorial Student Center on Tuesday, May 9th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

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