



Planning Team Meeting 7 Summary

1.1 Date, Time, Location

- Meeting Date: 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
- Krystin Ramirez, Project Manager, MIG

1.3 Planning Team Attendees

[ATTENDANCE NOT FORMALLY TAKEN]

- Christina Castaño, VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Marco Barros, Bluffview Resident
- 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
- Matthew Hosack, SA Hotel and Lodging Association
- Marilyn Jowdy, Blossom Park Neighborhood Association
- Brian Hummel, Resident
- Dawn Ann Larios, Texas Restaurant Association
- Michelle Madson, SA Hotel and Lodging Association
- Stephen McGuire, Walkers Ranch Neighborhood
- Terry Palmer, Forest Oak Neighborhood Association
- Ileana Sandoval, Council District 9
- Steve Southers, Aviation Department
- Donna Thompson, Arboretum Neighborhood Association / Bluffview
- Samantha Wickwire, Council District 10
- Tammy Wincott, Hunter's Mill HOA

1.4 Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the seventh 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. Introductions
- b. Overview of Amenities & Public Space Elements
- c. Reintroduction to Equity Maps
- d. Discuss Equity of Areas Based on Food, Employment, and Park Access
- e. Overview of Individual Focus Areas

f. Neighborhood Profile & Priorities Overview

a. Introductions

Staff and the consultant team were introduced.

b. Overview of Amenities & Public Space Elements

Staff presented a high-level overview of comments received from the public that address Amenities and Public Space. Comments presented were pulled from Community Meeting and Online Surveys. Comments presented are not meant to be comprehensive, but to help define key themes that the plan may address relating to Amenities and Public Space. Below are nine comments shown at the Planning Team Meeting:

1. *Provide pedestrian access to the Salado Creek Greenway for residents of MacArthur Terrace.*
2. *Green! Walkability! Colling shade.*
3. *Access to trail like a bridge or walkway from neighborhood trails.*
4. *Community Gardens.*
5. *Crosswalk treatment and art.*
6. *Opportunity for entertainment, residents, daycare.*
7. *I would try to create better access from more neighborhoods to the park trails in the area.*
8. *Places where people find a few moments of serenity and relaxation during their days.*
9. *Redesign area for local gathering point.*

The Plan Vision and goals were represented with statements that relate to Amenities and Public Space highlighted Below are the a list of these statements:

- *...Residents and visitors enjoy a well-maintained parks, open space, and trail system...*
- *...Increase equitable access to parks, open space, and trail and recreational amenities throughout the Regional Center...*
- *...Improve comfort, safety and aesthetics throughout the Regional Center with trees, other urban greening, an integration of sustainable infrastructure...*

c. Overview of Amenities and Public Space Elements

A brief overview of Amenities and Public Space elements was presented to the Planning Team. Specific component that may be included in the section are: Parks, Plazas, Character Defining Features, Signage and Wayfinding, Improved Lighting, Public Art, Pedestrian Crossings / Priority Connections, Trails / Trailheads, and Green Infrastructure.

d. Reintroduction to Equity Maps

Equity Maps were presented to the Planning Team. These maps were initially shown at Planning Team Meeting 2. An equity score map was presented that shows all 30 sub-areas with their associated "Equity Score." The Greater Airport Area scores at 5 out of 10, indicating it approximately half of all sub-areas have a combination of income levels and a population of People of Color greater than the Grater Airport Area. Additional Equity Maps that show access to parks, access to employment, and access to food within the sub-area were presented to provide context for the discussion of about where new investments should be made.

e. Overview of Individual Focus Areas

Prior to discussion of Amenities and Public Spaces within each Focus Area, an example Focus Area Map, that demonstrates how the final plan will identify where suggested new Amenities and Public Spaces improvements could be located was shown to the Planning Team. Each Focus Area will have an associated map that includes the

component Amenities and Public Spaces covered in the plan. Each of the five Focus Areas were presented along with a summary of Existing Conditions and a draft vision statement. Below are key themes discussed for each of the Focus Areas in order that they were presented.

FOCUS AREA #4 (San Pedro and 410)

Cycling and connectivity across Loop 410 was highlighted along with concern for how additional cycling infrastructure will affect vehicular traffic patterns. Blanco, San Pedro, and McCullough were each discussed. Blanco was identified by the team as having the closest proximity to existing bike lines to the north of Loop 410. McCullough was identified as perhaps the best current option, but it was noted that planned TxDOT improvements will make it more difficult to enter the Crownhill Park Neighborhood to the north and possibly require cyclists to travel along the 410 access road in the future. San Pedro was discussed as perhaps the most dangerous, and potentially the best place to focus automobile traffic, but it was also noted that it is currently an area where many people do cross today and an area with high rates of pedestrian incidents. Small parks or plazas where people could gather was identified as needed in the area especially on the site that is currently the Park North shopping center and at the Dollar General. Green infrastructure at the retaining ponds near the intersection of San Pedro and Loop 410. Food forests were identified as an alternative to Community Gardens that require less maintenance from the community and have other green infrastructure benefits. An example of a food forest in San Antonio Padre County Park.

FOCUS AREA #2 (Nacogdoches Road)

Planning Team Members noted that the area is home to a storm water channel that travels parallel to Nacogdoches and empties into Salado Creek and could be improved with green infrastructure and potentially include some kind of pedestrian amenities that connects to the Greenbelt trail. The Planning Team also noted that the area needs improvements generally like lighting and pavement maintenance, but specifically identified a need for safe pedestrian crossings.

FOCUS AREA #5 (West and Blanco)

It was noted by the Planning Team that pedestrians and cyclists are frequently in conflict with cars in the area, although the amount of pavement and lack of green infrastructure was identified as a bigger priority for some on the Planning Team. It was noted that new businesses were moving to the area including a “Fitness Connection,” which may increase demand for parking. A main concern was for the children traveling from the two adjacent schools and the lack of safe crossing that have resulted in injuries and fatalities. It was also noted that investments by VIA into transit facilities along Blanco, may impact transit and pedestrian ridership in the area. Cut-through traffic in parking lots was also highlighted as concern for pedestrians walking to areas stores.

FOCUS AREA #1 (Bitter and 281)

Within the Focus Area the site which includes AutoFit and Burlington Coat Factory, was identified as one that has not performed particularly well and may be able to accommodate additional housing. The Planning Team pointed out that the area already has a series of entertainment-oriented uses like a bar, a mini-golf course, a bowling alley, and a brewery that could be opportunity for additional public space that could benefit these uses, including splash pads. The flood plain in the area could be re-imaged as replanted and turned into green space. A direct connector for US 281 and Wurzbach Parkway was pointed out as a priority to improve mobility in the area, it was not that if additional freeway infrastructure is built over Salado Creek that it should minimize impacts on the creek.

FOCUS AREA #3 (Isom Area)

Isom road in the focus area was noted as an important connection for cyclists especially the Isom street bridge over US 281.

f. Next Steps

DIGITAL DESIGN CHARRETTE: 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

PLANNING TEAM MEETING #8: Planning Team Meeting #8 will be held virtually on Thursday, June 15th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM