



# ***NEAR NORTHWEST***

## **COMMUNITY AREA PLAN**

**Planning Team Meeting 3 Summary Mobility**



**PLANNING**

# PLANNING TEAM MEETING 3 SUMMARY

## 1. Date, Time, Location

- Date: May 8, 2025
- Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Saint Mary's University

## 2. Attendees

Attendees included members of the Near Northwest Community Area Plan Planning Team, staff from the City of San Antonio Planning and Transportation Department, VIA, and project consultants from MIG and Cambridge Systematics. The Planning Team comprises a diverse group of stakeholders from the Near Northwest Community Area, including representatives of neighborhood associations, residents, business owners, community leaders, employers, and major institutions.

### PLANNING TEAM

- Diane Duesterhoeft, St. Mary's University
- Dan Rossiter, Thunderbird Hills NA
- Don Rios, Culebra Park NA
- Patricia Jaramillo, St. Mary's University
- Pete Araiza
- Rosita Lira, Sunshine Estates NA
- Saul Garza

### STAFF

- Zack Magallanez, CoSA Planning Department, Project Manager
- Chris Ryerson, CoSA Planning Department, Planning Administrator
- Isacc Levy, CoSA Transportation Department, Senior Planner
- Thomas Medina, VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Nahum Martinez, VIA Metropolitan Transit
- Jay Renkens, MIG, Project Consultant
- Marco Hinajosa, MIG, Project Consultant
- Hannah Santiago, Project Consultant

### **3. Meeting Purpose & Objectives**

The purpose of the meeting was to review the updated draft vision and goals for the plan area and introduce the Planning Team to the mobility framework that will guide the development of transportation strategies. The meeting included an overview presentation on existing mobility conditions followed by brief updates from the Transportation Department and VIA Metropolitan Transit. These presentations set the stage for a discussion on mobility needs, assets, challenges, and opportunities within the plan area. The meeting concluded with an interactive mapping and strategies discussion to help identify priority mobility improvements. This meeting marked the first of two Planning Team meetings dedicated to mobility.

#### **Objectives**

- **Discuss Updated Draft Vision & Goals**
- **Mobility Overview**
- **Mobility Needs Discussion**
- **Mobility Mapping and Strategies Discussion**

## **4. Mobility Overview**

City staff delivered a presentation introducing the mobility framework for the Near Northwest planning area, outlining key challenges, best practices, and the relationship between land use and transportation. The presentation highlighted national and local mobility trends, including the disproportionate safety impacts experienced by people of color, low-income residents, children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Staff also emphasized the role of the transportation sector in contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and the importance of designing safer, more accessible streets for all users.

The presentation also reviewed recognized mobility best practices such as designing for all ages and abilities, reducing speeds to improve safety, and aligning the mobility network with surrounding land uses to help frame future discussions. Staff explained how roadway functions vary across the network, ranging from high-capacity corridors that move regional traffic to smaller streets meant to support neighborhood-scale access. Existing land uses in the Near Northwest area were described as diverse, with residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational spaces creating a broad range of mobility needs.

## **5. Transportation Department Initiatives (City of San Antonio Transportation Presentation)**

Issac Levy from the City of San Antonio's Transportation Department provided an overview of the department's mission, structure, and major initiatives guiding mobility planning citywide. He emphasized the department's role in creating a safe, sustainable, and equitable multimodal transportation system, noting its transition from Public Works and TCI to a standalone agency responsible for strategic planning, project implementation, community engagement, regional coordination, and safety-focused data analysis.

The presentation highlighted several initiatives shaping current transportation policy. Issac reviewed the City's Vision Zero program and its goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries through a Safe System Approach. He summarized the 2024 Action Plan, which includes a new equity assessment, expanded community engagement, identification of the High-Injury and High-Risk Network, and upcoming implementation steps.

Issac also introduced the updated Complete Streets Policy, adopted in 2024 in which he explained the two-phase process updating the policy framework and launching implementation efforts such as design guidance, performance metrics, project prioritization, and interagency coordination all aimed at designing streets for all modes and users. Finally, Issac provided an update on the Bike Network Plan, which builds on the 2011 Bike Plan and aims to create a connected, safe, and comfortable bicycle network. The updated plan identifies 1,740 miles of new and upgraded bike facilities that will guide future investment and improve citywide connectivity.

## **6. VIA Metropolitan Transit Overview**

Representatives from VIA Metropolitan Transit provided an overview of the agency's mission, services, and major projects that support regional mobility. VIA emphasized its role in connecting communities to opportunity through a multimodal transit network that enhances economic vitality and quality of life across the region. Staff highlighted VIA's service area, which spans more than 1,200 square miles, and noted that the agency operates seven days a week with a variety of services including local bus routes, VIA trans paratransit, Primo high-frequency service, VIA Link on-demand zones, vanpools, and Park & Ride facilities.

The presentation included key facts about VIA's operations, such as annual passenger trips, number of routes, transit centers, and the size of its bus fleet. Staff also provided an update on major capital and service initiatives, including the Green Line and Silver Line projects, both designed to improve transit frequency, reliability, and north-south and east-west connectivity. VIA briefly discussed the Better Bus Plan, which is currently in development and aims to create a more frequent, direct, and convenient transit network through phased implementation.

Staff concluded with an overview of transit service within the Near Northwest planning area. The community is served by 11 bus routes with an average weekly ridership of more than 12,000 riders, demonstrating the importance of transit access in supporting local mobility needs.

## **7. Mapping Activity**

As part of the meeting, Planning Team members participated in an interactive mapping activity to identify specific locations within the Near Northwest Community Area where mobility challenges and opportunities exist. Using large-format maps and guided prompts, participants marked areas related to safety concerns, transit accessibility, freight and congestion issues, and bicycle and pedestrian needs. The exercise allowed members to share firsthand experiences about how they move through the community, highlight problematic intersections or corridors, and suggest places where improvements could meaningfully enhance daily travel.

## Safety

### Safety Questions

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p>Where are some areas where you feel unsafe while walking, biking, driving, or riding the bus?</p> <p>Are there intersections or streets where crossing is difficult or dangerous? Why?</p> <p>Have you seen or experienced near-misses or crashes? Where did they happen?</p>	<p>What kinds of bike facilities (e.g., bike lanes, trails, racks) would help you ride more?</p> <p>Are there areas where better lighting, shelters, or sidewalks would make transit or walking feel safer?</p> <p>Are there particular times of day (e.g., school drop-off, rush hour, night) when safety is worse?</p> <p>If you could improve one place in your neighborhood to make it safer for getting around, what would it be?</p>

Safety Comments are Included in Figure 1. Below



Figure 1

## Transit

### Transit Questions

Challenges	Opportunities
<p>How easy or hard is it for you to get to the nearest bus stop or transit center?</p> <p>Are there places in the neighborhood where it's especially hard for kids, older adults, or people with disabilities to access transit?</p> <p>Are there places where you feel unsafe walking to transit—because of traffic, lack of lighting, or other concerns?</p>	<p>What would make the walk or bike to transit stops feel more comfortable (e.g., shade, lighting, benches)?</p> <p>Have you seen good examples in other parts of the city or other cities where transit access felt easy and safe?</p> <p>Where are locations in your community that you see a high number of transit users?</p>



<p>Are there places where delivery trucks block bike lanes, sidewalks, or driveways?</p> <p>What streets or intersections experience the worst traffic congestion?</p>	<p>Are there intersections or signal timings that could be adjusted to improve traffic? What about turn lanes or traffic circles?</p> <p>Where would clearer signage (e.g., "No Trucks," "Loading Only") help guide freight more effectively?</p>
--	---

Freight and Congestion Comments are Included in Figure 3. Below



Figure 3

**Bike and Ped**

**Bike and Ped Questions**

Challenges	Opportunities
<p>Where do you walk or bike regularly, and how safe or comfortable does it feel?</p> <p>Can you easily walk or bike to the places you need to go—like schools, parks, shops, or transit?</p> <p>Are there places where it's hard for people using wheelchairs, strollers, or walkers to travel safely?</p>	<p>Are there bike lanes, trails, or bike racks missing where you need them? What about lighting, shade, or benches?</p> <p>What's one place or street where walking or biking could be made easier or safer?</p> <p>Have you seen great places in other neighborhoods or cities that could inspire improvements here?</p>

*Bike and Ped Comments are Included in Figure 4. Below*

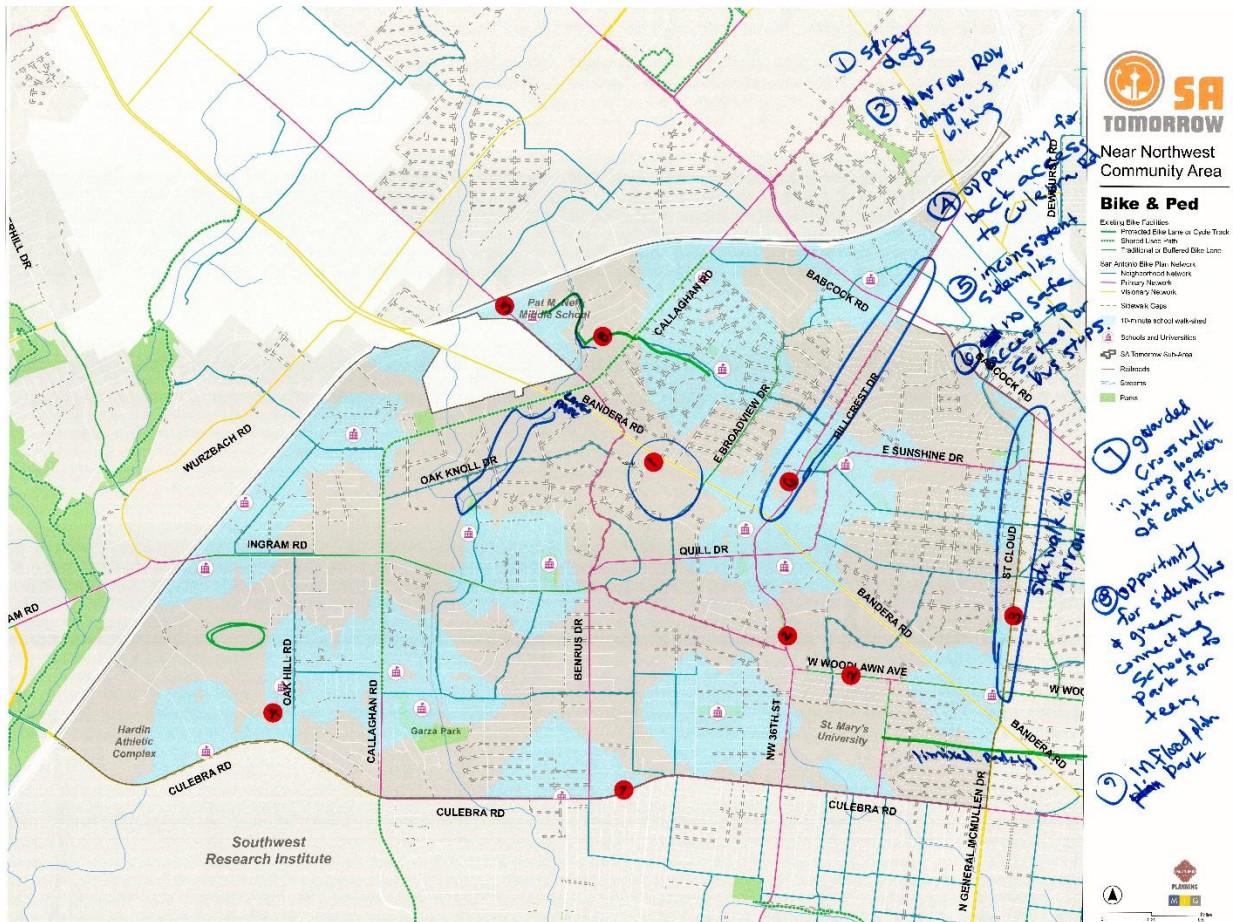


Figure 4

**Contact Information:**

Sheikh Kenneh, Project Manager, City of San Antonio Planning Department

Email: [Sheikh.kenneh2@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Sheikh.kenneh2@sanantonio.gov)

Phone: (210) 207-8038







