



## **SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY AREA PLAN**

### **PLANNING TEAM MEETING #3 SUMMARY**

**Topic:** PT3: Mobility  
**Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2025  
**Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
**Location:** South San Antonio Community Center

#### **Attendees:**

Attendees consisted of City of San Antonio staff and Southwest (SW) Planning Team members. Planning Teams consist of a wide variety of stakeholders from the SW area including neighborhood associations, residents, business owners, and community leaders.

- Debora Gonzalez, COSA Project Manager
- Chris Ryerson, Planning Administrator
- Marcia Boyle, MIG Project Consultant
- Marco Hinojosa, MIG Project Consultant
- Lily Lowder, CS Associate
- Angie Olvera, Keep South San Proud Association
- Debra Ponce, Community member & Public Citizen Org.
- David Yanez, Palm Heights NA
- Peter Onofre, Christian Center
- Rene Carrillo, Community Advocate
- Vicente Escobedo, SAMHD
- Thomas Medina, VIA
- Nahum Martinez, VIA
- Raul Olveda, D4
- Zan Marshall, COSA Transportation Dpt.

#### **I. MEETING PURPOSE & AGENDA**

The purpose of this meeting was to focus on Mobility assets, needs, and challenges for the Southwest Community Area and to start prioritizing mobility opportunities. This is the first of two Planning Team meetings dedicated to mobility issues. The agenda for the meeting included:

- 5:45 – 5:50 Welcome and Introductions
- 5:50 – 6:05 Vision and Goals Update
- 6:05 – 6:10 Mobility Overview Presentation
- 6:10 – 6:15 Transportation Department Initiatives
- 6:15 – 6:25 VIA Metropolitan Transit Overview
- 6:25 – 6:35 Mobility Overview Discussion
- 6:35 – 6:45 Assets, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 6:45 – 6:55 Mobility Needs Discussion
- 6:55 – 7:40 Mobility Mapping and Strategies Discussion
- 7:40 – 7:45 Next Steps / Meeting Adjourned

## II. MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with a round of staff and planning team introductions along with a recap of the Plan timeline. We then revisited the updated draft of the Vision & Goals, followed by a Mobility Overview and presentations from the Transportation Department and VIA. Next, our consultant Lily Lowder from Cambridge Systematics (CS) discussed Mobility Goals, Assets and Challenges. Along with MIG consultants we had two facilitated group discussions that included prioritizing mobility opportunities and challenges on various maps. This is the first of two Planning Team meetings dedicated to mobility issues.

### VISION AND GOALS DISCUSSION

#### Vision

- Fix grammar in Vision – first sentence: either add “to” in front of thrive or change supports to helps.
- Add something to the vision that highlights the *historical identity* of the area.

#### Goals

- #3 and #8 need to touch on reducing/stopping the expansion of industrial uses, data centers, business that cause air pollution, especially fine particulate matter, elaborate more on environment.
- #7 –want to grow smaller businesses, local businesses, welcome businesses that want to be part of the community and want to be good business neighbors.

### MOBILITY OVERVIEW

- Highlight Leon Creek and the Howard Peak Greenway Trail System.
- General confusion about the VIA LINK Zone #3 that overlaps the SWCAP area.
- Frustration that VIA has not done a better job of advertising and creating awareness about the VIA LINK service and how area residents can utilize it to improve their transit mobility.
- Frustration that funding for improvements always goes to the northside and the leftover money maybe gets used to for the south/southwest sides.
  - Example of the ART Green Line serving north/Stone Oak, but nothing for the southwest where many more people rely on transit.
  - Transit from the Quintana area to anywhere takes several transfers and too much time. Many amenities and services the community uses are along SW Military Drive, but there are not good transit routes to get people there.
- Also a lot of new development near Pearsal Park and the area down Pearsal Road to Loop 1604 and Southwest High School is very underserved given recent development in the area.
- Nearby areas/amenities like Palo Alto College, Texas A&M-SA campus and the new University Health hospital being built at Zarzamora St and Jaguar Parkway do not have bus service.
- Several PT members want to know requested VIA LINK ridership numbers and most common origin/destinations (Look at slide #42)
- Want to get a Primo/ART Green Line type service to Palo Alto, A&M, and Toyota (would love to see a study assessing this)
  - Criticisms of VIA’s approach of using demand to guide investments... If there is no/poor service then there is not going to be any good demand data to support improved service.
  - Question re: the proposed South Texas Parkway MTP change. Interested in a study that will evaluate traffic impacts on adjacent neighborhoods.
  - AAMPO is working on a Freight Study – will get it and distribute to the PT.

## MAPPING GROUP EXERCISE

### Safety Map:

#### *Table One:*

1. Palo Alto Park – no sidewalks from Cortez Library.
2. Difficult to cross I-35 and Military.
3. Poteet-Jourdanton and 410
4. Quintana – painted lines always wear away.
5. SW Military – hard to turn left on Old Pearsall Road – a lot of back-ups cause people to cut through gas stations.
6. Zarzamora near Normoyle Park has a lot of speeding.
7. Old Persall Road and Ray Ellison – a lot of truck traffic going to landfills.
8. New Laredo – truck/metal recycling traffic.
9. I-35 and Theo – no yield signs leads to crazy merging situation of drivers exiting the highway.
10. East Kelly area along Frio City Road –
  - a. tons of trucks – metal recycling
  - b. road is in terrible condition
  - c. the bridge is dangerous, with no clear lanes
11. Drainage/low water crossing issues and flooding at the bridge made worse by sand and dust coating peoples' windshields and reducing visibility.
12. We need a "Welcome to Quintana!" sign!
13. Division from I-35 to Nogalitos needs traffic calming to reduce4 speeding.
14. Quintana and Medina Base (out of SWCAP plan area) need more durable road materials to stand up to heavy truck traffic.
15. Long path with no sidewalks – SW Military long bridge over rail tracks – no lighting.
  - a. There are bus stops on either end of this area (opposite sides of the tracks) so people end up walking long distances in this unsafe area.
16. Speeding on Theo

General Note: The area SW between Old Pearsall Road and Pearsall Park is very land locked and has poor emergency access. Emergency vehicles must either: (1) go out along SW Military and down Old Pearsall Road to enter from the west; or (2) go all the way around 410 and onto Old Pearsall Road to access the area.

#### *Table two:*

1. Sommerset and Cassin Dr – dangerous four-way intersection in every way
2. Sommerset and Cassin Dr - stop signs don't make it safer
3. SW Military Dr – home depot/target area needs medians for access management
4. Quintana – how to alleviate truck pass traffic through
5. Frio City Rd - 2017-2022 Bond Project: South Zarzamora Street Overpass – how will it help truck traffic
6. SW Military & GBC – freight traffic safety needed – create a new connection going south to connect with TX&AM/Kelly Pkwy

### Bike-Ped Map:

#### *Table One:*

1. Theo and Malone – no one biking – not safe despite bike lanes
2. Zarzamora – no one biking – not safe despite bike lanes

3. Bike lanes are needed to connect the neighborhood north of the Normoyle Park planned expansion
4. Stray dogs everywhere!
5. Stray dogs everywhere!
6. All the sidewalks along SW Military are terrible for those walking, cycling, or with disabilities
7. Palm Heights Community Center area – poor sidewalks
8. Students walking from Quintana Neighborhood to elementary schools don't have safe routes – need better sidewalks
9. Potential school closures would force kids to Benavidez elementary, requiring a dangerous crossing of Poteet Jourdanton Fwy Acc Road/Palo Alto Road
10. Need better sidewalk connections across Poteet Jourdanton for Palo Alto Students
11. A big move would be a connection / bridge over the UP rail tracks from Quintana Road to the Clarence Tinker Drive/Quentin Roosevelt Road/General Hudnell Drive area
  - a. The Southcross area in Quintana has several independent businesses, but no good way for Kelly and Port SA employees to access them for lunch, etc.
  - b. Quintana area residents need easier access to enjoy the services and amenities available throughout Port SA

*Table Two:*

1. New Laredo Highway heavy industrial two lane road
2. Leon Creek and IH35 greenway trail east and west connection and connection recommended in Port SA plan
- 3 – 5. Southcross Blvd and Huron Street need protected infrastructure for safe routes to school
6. Quintana Road sidewalks too close and too narrow to road
7. Railroads need a bridge connection with bike safety integrated

Freight & Congestion Map:

*Table One*

1. SW Military and Old Pearsall Road – a lot of truck traffic, especially going to the dump
2. Quintana Road – New Laredo Hwy – Somerset Road: tons of trucks – not safe – dust flying everywhere
  - a. Raul (D4) Port SA has worked with their tenants to use Billy Mitchell and then up General Hudnell Drive to US 90.
3. New Laredo and Southcross – a lot of trucks
4. Somerset, especially either side of SW Military Drive – a lot of trucks
5. Charles Graebner Elementary – terrible school drop-off and pick-up congestion
6. Traffic congestion coming out of Palo Alto College on W Villaret Blvd to access I-410
7. SW Military and Old Pearsall Road – a lot of truck traffic, especially going to the dump
9. King Avenue and Lindeman Street – one mention of a lot of truck parking. Bad traffic bottlenecks at Somerset Road and SW Military Drive
10. Bynum and W Gerald – truck parking
11. S Zarzamora Street + SW Military Drive + I-35
12. S Zarzamora Street + SW Military Drive + I-35
13. IDEA School – school drop-off and pick-up congestion
14. Traffic congestion
15. Truck parking
16. Road condition is terrible – potholes, Quintana Road=no lights – need lighting!, dump site

17. Need better connection (Quintana area to Port SA) – plan ahead for when East Kelly Rail Port is at full capacity

#### *Table Two*

- 1-3. A lot of freight traffic along Zarzamora, SW Military and Frio City Rd
4. S Zarzamora and Southcross Rd wide lanes should be reduced from seven lanes
- 5-6. Katy Pwy make connection into Toyota area

#### Transit

1. Five Palms Drive need covered bus stops
2. Gillet Blvd connect the colleges and schools to Pleasanton
3. Quintana Road no connection because of the rail road to New Laredo Hwy
4. New Laredo Hwy building out VIA service for new subdivisions being built
5. S Zarzamora need bike protections, accessibility and well light
6. Madla VIA Center needs bike locks

### **III. NEXT STEPS**

- **The Southwest Community Area** project website will be used to post Planning Team and Community Meeting resources, communicate dates for public engagement opportunities, and draft plan content. Southwest Community Area link: <https://southwest.sacompplan.com/>
- **Planning Team Meeting #4:** May 22<sup>th</sup>, 2025 tentatively from 5:30-7:30 PM
- **Planning Team Meeting #5:** June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 tentatively from 5:30-7:30 PM

#### Contact Information

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