

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY

**Plan Area:** Eastside Area Community Plan  
**Subject:** Vision and Goals Public Meeting and Questionnaire Results  
**Date:** March 13, 2019

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### OVERVIEW

The City of San Antonio Planning obtained public input using an online questionnaire and a public meeting to inform the “Vision and Goals” for the SA Tomorrow Eastside Area Community Plan (Eastside Plan), and to educate Planning Department staff on the assets, challenges and opportunities in the plan area. In addition to using the public meeting and online questionnaire, Planning Department staff met with several neighborhood associations and other stakeholders in recent months to obtain their input.

### Questionnaire

The Questionnaire included basic introductory information about the scope of the plan. The questionnaire was promoted using email, the project webpage, social media, and at the public meeting. Approximately 69 responses to the questionnaire were collected.

### 1st Public Meeting

The meeting was on February 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Philip’s College, and was organized in an open house format, including an introductory presentation on the planning process, how public input is used, and how participants can stay involved. The meeting also included preliminary existing conditions information displayed on boards and in printed booklets. Public input was collected using the online questionnaire available on a bank of computers, an interactive paper wall graphic, and comment cards. Spanish translation services were advertised and available. The meeting was advertised using postcards mailed to all plan area addresses, and digital media. Approximately 93 people attended the meeting.





## OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC MEETING RESULTS

Most of the public input collected at the February 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting was recorded on the interactive paper wall graphic (See figure 1 on the last page). Additional input was collected on comment cards, and informational publications submitted by participants.

### What do you like most about this area?

- Close to Downtown
- Strong feeling of community
- Strong networks of neighbors
- Close to amenities and events
- Historic buildings, culture, and character
- Close to hospitals
- Walkable and bikeable
- Living history of people and places
- Real residential character with front and back yards
- Open spaces and trees on big lots and diverse population
- My neighbors and our future together. History.

### What is missing from this area?

- Real public transportation, libraries, and safe walkable streets
- Updated water, electric, and internet service infrastructure
- City efforts to address individual concerns in a serious and sustained way
- A destination center at ATT Center
- An effective way to disseminate community information to those without computers
- City respect for residents that are here now
- Bike lanes
- Hospital
- Better supermarket options
- Additional public safety and policing
- More restaurant choices, business, and jobs
- Major public hospital
- Day shelters
- Homeless assistance, community showers
- Consistent neighborhood fabric
- Community center
- Rail Quiet Zone extension to Hackberry/Pine
- Displacement prevention
- Housing like Alamodome Gardens
- Fitness Center
- Parking enforcement near Alamodome
- Sidewalks
- Apartments for seniors
- Improved HEB

- Community designed parks and public spaces
- Support for startup businesses (more Liftfund, SAGE's, accellorator)
- Street lights
- More greenspaces, parks, and trees
- Why are we paying taxes on an \$89,000 home when real estate offers are only coming in at \$35,000?

### What about the community would you like to see different?

- Fix cemetery streets
- Occupied housing
- Safe walkability
- Trolley or bus service instead of scooters
- Better trash cleanup and security in parks
- Enforce construction job sites for debris and litter
- Better animal control and care
- Better coordination of mobility issues: VIA Pickup lanes, parking garages in key locations, and sidewalk conditions
- Update MLK "Park" along New Braunfels
- Property tax reform
- More affordable housing
- For the City to embrace our historic fabric
- Government Hill needs more historic businesses
- Low density land use in residential areas
- Behavioral issues/homeless
- Better access to and from the area, convenient rail crossings
- Enforce our community plans
- Effective scooter policy
- To be more homeless friendly, and not prejudiced against homeless people
- To support housing and services for homeless people
- Consistent sidewalks
- Correct rodent problems and trash
- Lower traffic speeds on New Braunfels and Commerce
- Fewer Pawn shops and convenience stores
- Awareness and education on property tax issues
- Trollies to cemeteries
- Senior homes, arts, ground floor

## What is your Vision or Big Idea for the Area?

- Create small parks and gardens for children from some vacant lots
- Leasable buildings and resources for entrepreneurs
- Program to support small scale procurement contracts that support existing businesses
- Essex Modern City
- Code to allow tiny homes and shipping container homes
- Replace freight service with enhanced regional commuter rail service
- Entertainment and movie complex
- Seniors aging in place
- Tiny homes for homeless (See Detroit’s Cass Corridor Plan)
- Hayes Street Bridge areas as community space
- Better connectivity between Dignowity Hill and Downtown (Sherman, Burleson, Jones etc...)
- Facilities and programs for kids-recreational and other opportunities, incorporated into new development.
- Corporate Accountability
- Prevent displacement
- Partner with SAISD schools
- Food Hall at Friedrich Building
- Visitor’s center at Cherry and Lamar
- Strengthening existing corridors
- Maintain Historic Character: uses, spatial relationships, urban fabric etc...
- That the city de-emphasize the need for density: numbers over people will not end well for neighborhoods.
- Ensure the lighting of the neighborhood
- Enforcement of neighborhood plans, guidelines, ordinances.
- Active. Low crime. Homeless have homes, Neighbors feel included.
- Keep existing character.

## Next Steps

The Planning Department will use the input collected from the questionnaire, the public meeting, other stakeholder engagement, and the Eastside Planning Team to draft the “Vision and Goals.” The draft Vision and Goals will be published for additional public comments and refinement. The draft Vision and Goals will guide later stages of the Eastside planning process. The next public meeting, estimated to occur sometime in May, will be announced using email and social media. If you have questions about the Eastside planning project, please contact Project Manager Garrett Phillips, City of San Antonio Planning Department. Email: [garrett.phillips@sanantonio.gov](mailto:garrett.phillips@sanantonio.gov) Phone: (210) 207-5441.

## Additional input collected on comment cards and other materials

- Open up Dignowity Hill north along 281/37 up to Downtown. Connect Sherman to Jones Avenue. Make Burleson 2-way for access to Downtown.
- Shipping container/silo type home construction on smaller eastside lots. This type works well on the small lots and when done correctly. Looks sleek and modern or can still tie in historic charm into design.
- A letter to the Texas Historical Commission regarding the Woolworth Building in Alamo Plaza was left amongst the comment cards.
- A timeline of events regarding the Hays Street Bridge and adjacent development was left amongst the comment cards.



