



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Eastside Community Plan – Public Meeting #2
Date: May 7th, 2019
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: St. Philip's College, Campus Center Building, Heritage Room
Attendees: Approximately 16

Meeting Purpose

The City of San Antonio Planning Department hosted a community meeting to obtain public input that will be used to create the SA Tomorrow Eastside Community Plan.

Meeting Results

Approximately 16 people attended the meeting. Participants' input is summarized on the following pages. The Planning Department will use participants' input to refine the draft Vision and Goals, identify and make recommendations for focus areas and mixed-use corridors, identify desired community amenities, and inform other elements of the Eastside Plan.

Meeting Format

The meeting was an open house and included several activities for participants to provide input.

1. **Emerging Draft Vision and Goals** – the draft vision and goals were displayed with color coded instructions for participants to edit the draft vision and goals.
2. **Complete Communities Priority Board** – Several types of housing and community amenities were displayed on a board with instruction for participants to place sticky dots near those that should be prioritized.
3. **Place Types and Locator Map** – there was a station that included a Locator Map and two boards that described the 12 different Place Types that were identified in the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. The Place Types describe potential development patterns that should be used in the future to achieve the Comprehensive Plan's vision and goals. Participants were encouraged to identify where each place type could conceivably be located within the Eastside Community Plan area, by placing a letter code for each place type on the locator map.
4. **Focus Areas** – three Focus Area Maps were presented with comment cards seeking input from attendees on what their ideas were for the purpose and character of each Focus Area. The comment card also included a question related to potential mixed-use corridors within the plan area. The work station included a color coded exercise, requesting that red, green or blue dots be placed on the study area map to identify assets, challenges, and opportunities for the plan area. A fourth map display board representing the entire plan area invited participants to identify additional focus areas and mixed-use corridors for consideration.
5. **Neighborhood Priorities** – Neighborhood Priorities Worksheets invited participants to write down important characteristics and priorities specific to their neighborhood.

Activity Station Results

Please Comment on the draft Eastside Vision and Goals

Vision

Eastside neighborhoods will be stable places where diverse communities of people can stay, participate, and grow together. Places of historical and cultural heritage will be preserved and valued. More living wage employment opportunities will be located in the area and available for local residents. Basic infrastructure will be complete and maintained, so that it is comfortable and safe to spend time outside, get exercise, travel, interact, and engage with neighbors.

Handwritten notes: "not very aspirational", "Quality of life", "City to emulate", "Second street"

Goals

Neighborhood Stability and Inclusion

- Neighborhood housing will be maintained, available, and affordable for a diverse population.
- Residents will feel comfortable and be able to afford staying in their neighborhood through all life stages.

Employment and Opportunity

- There will be more employment and entrepreneurial opportunity for local residents.
- Negative side effects of economic growth will be proactively minimized and mitigated.

Handwritten notes: "Financial literacy", "First Financial firm", "Education Related", "Fix Streets"

Historic and Cultural Heritage

- Unique culturally significant sites and buildings will be preserved, featured, and valued.
- The broader cultural landscape, comprised of buildings, business, public spaces, and natural features will be intact and familiar.

Art and Cultural Options

Public and Gathering Places

- Public places will support interaction among people from diverse backgrounds.
- Public places will be accessible via a complete and maintained network of sidewalks.
- Diverse retail establishments and services will be available, including familiar and traditional businesses that are relevant to existing residents.

Connected neighborhoods

- Basic infrastructure such as sidewalks, lighting, and neighborhood trees will be complete and maintained.
- Infrastructure improvements will support multiple community goals, including facilitating social interaction and health, complementing cultural assets, and enhancing transportation choices.
- Pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between neighborhoods, employment options, Downtown, and other destinations will be safe, convenient, and comfortable.

Visión

Los vecindarios del Eastside serán lugares estables donde comunidades de personas diversas puedan permanecer, participar y crecer juntas. Se conservarán y valorarán lugares de patrimonio histórico y cultural. Se ubicarán más oportunidades de empleo con salario digno en el área y estarán disponibles para los residentes locales. La infraestructura básica estará completa y se mantendrá, de modo que sea cómodo y seguro pasar tiempo afuera, hacer ejercicio, viajar, interactuar y relacionarse con los vecinos.

Patrimonio histórico y cultural

- Se conservarán, presentarán y valorarán los sitios y edificios de importancia cultural únicos.
- El paisaje cultural más amplio, compuesto por edificios, negocios, espacios públicos y características naturales, estará intacto y conocido.

Lugares públicos y de reunión

- Los lugares públicos apoyarán la interacción entre personas de diversos orígenes.
- Los lugares públicos serán accesibles a través de una red de aceras completa y mantenida.
- Estarán disponibles diversos establecimientos y servicios minoristas, incluidos negocios familiares y tradicionales relevantes para los existentes residentes.

Vecindarios conectados

- La infraestructura básica, como aceras, iluminación y árboles del vecindario, estará completa y mantenida.
- Las mejoras en la infraestructura apoyarán los múltiples objetivos comunitarios, como facilitar la interacción social y la salud, complementando los bienes culturales y mejorando las opciones de transporte.
- Las conexiones peatonales, de bicicleta y de tránsito entre los vecindarios, opciones de empleo, el centro de la ciudad y otros destinos serán seguros, convenientes y cómodos.

Metas

Estabilidad e inclusión vecinales

- Las viviendas del vecindario se mantendrán, estarán disponibles y serán accesibles para una población diversa.
- Los residentes se sentirán cómodos y podrán permitirse el lujo de permanecer en su vecindario a través de todas las etapas de la vida.

Empleo y oportunidad

- Habrán más empleo y oportunidades empresariales para los residentes locales.
- Los efectos secundarios negativos del crecimiento económico se minimizarán y mitigarán proactivamente.

Legend:

- Green dot: This is important
- Yellow dot: This should be reconsidered
- Blue dot: Add this

The vision and goals will be used to guide the rest of the Eastside Plan

Several elements of the draft Vision and Goals were explicitly supported by participants. Individual participants suggested that the following topics should be added: Educational component, parks, financial literacy, art and cultural options, street repair. Individual participants questioned whether the negative side effects of economic growth should be proactively minimized, and whether pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections should be safe convenient, and comfortable. Two participants suggested that the vision was not very aspirational.



Complete Community Priorities Board

What Housing and Amenities would you like for the Eastside Plan Area?

	HOUSING TYPES					
PLACES TO LIVE AND TO GATHER	Townhomes and Condos	Duplex/Triplex/Quadplex	Apartment Living			Is something missing that you think belongs in the Eastside Plan Area? Add it here on a Post-It!
	Restaurants, Bars, or Cafes		Retail Shops	Arts and Cultural Activities	Plazas or Parks	
INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITIES	Sidewalks and Crossings	Bike Lanes	Public Art and Murals	Improved Transit	Curbs and LID Stormwater	
	Lighting	Furnishings			Trees and Landscaping	

● Place stickers next to your top priorities for the Eastside Plan Area

On the Complete Communities Priority Board, there was some relative support for more apartment living options, in addition to small apartment housing and single family dwellings with accessory dwellings. Regarding “Places to Gather,” participants supported more restaurants, bars, cafes and retail shops. Regarding infrastructure and amenities, there was relative support for sidewalks and crossings, curbs and Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater infrastructure, and trees and landscaping. Several dots were also placed for bike lanes, public art and murals, and improved transit. Additional comments were about improving bike lanes, traffic calming, access across rail road lines, street repair, and connecting the cemeteries to nearby parks.



Place Types Identification on Locator Map



The 12 SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan Place Types are available for you to review at <https://sacomplan.com/place-types/>. Neighborhood Main Street was the place type most commonly placed on the locator map by participants, followed by Regional/Commuter Rail, High Capacity-Transit Corridor, and Community Corridor. These place types were located by participants at New Braunfels Avenue near Grayson Street, and New Braunfels Avenue near Houston Street, among other locations. Other place types such as Institutional/Campus Mixed-use, Trail-Oriented Development, Green Neighborhood, and Office Park Infill were also used.



Eastside Community Plan Community Meeting #2 Summary

Focus Areas



1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map:
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community?
VACANT LOTS & PROPERTIES DETRACT FROM AREA

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area?
AREA HISTORY HAS DEGRADED BY EVIDENCE OF

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☒ a place for more people to live.
☐ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands.
☒ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:
CONVERT AN AREA OF EMPTY LOTS FOR COMMUNITY

1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map:
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community?
VERY POOR, DREARY

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area?
"Old San Antonio" I would like to enhance the quality of life FOR the residents; not raise taxes to kick them out/gentrify

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☒ a place for more people to live.
☒ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands.
☒ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:

Iowa and Pine Area

In the Iowa and Pine area, comments indicated that vacant lots characterize the area and that these present an opportunity for more people to live or work. In placing "assets," "challenges" and "opportunity" stickers on the map, participants identified features in the whole area within one to two blocks of Iowa and Pine Street intersection, rather than just the intersection or just the properties adjacent to the intersection.



1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map: *Nolan/Pine*
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community?
THIS AREA HAS MORE POTENTIAL WITH REHAB HOMES

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area?
SPECIAL NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC SHOULD BE SUPPORTED

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☒ a place for more people to live.
☐ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands.
☐ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:
FUTURE SATURATION MAY MOVE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS CENTER

1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map: *Nolan/Pine*
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community?
THIS AREA HAS BEEN DEVELOPED/REDEVELOPED - LESS MOVE MORE TO THE EAST OF THIS

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area?

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☐ a place for more people to live.
☐ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands.
☐ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:

Nolan and Pine Area

In the Nolan and Pine area, there were fewer comments, one indicating that home rehabilitation should be emphasized, and one indicating that we should consider focusing our attention further to the east.



Eastside Community Plan Community Meeting #2 Summary



Houston and New Braunfels Area

Comments indicated that the shopping center is seen as the most vibrant commercial corridor in the area. At the same time, comments indicated support for higher density residential development and additional commercial development. "Opportunity" stickers were placed in some of the larger vacant lots and surface parking areas on the map.

1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map: *New Braunfels Houston*
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community? *Fast growth commercial corridor West of New Braunfels*

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area? *Fast growth*

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☒ a place for more people to live
☒ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands
☒ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:
This is area where higher density residential + commercial

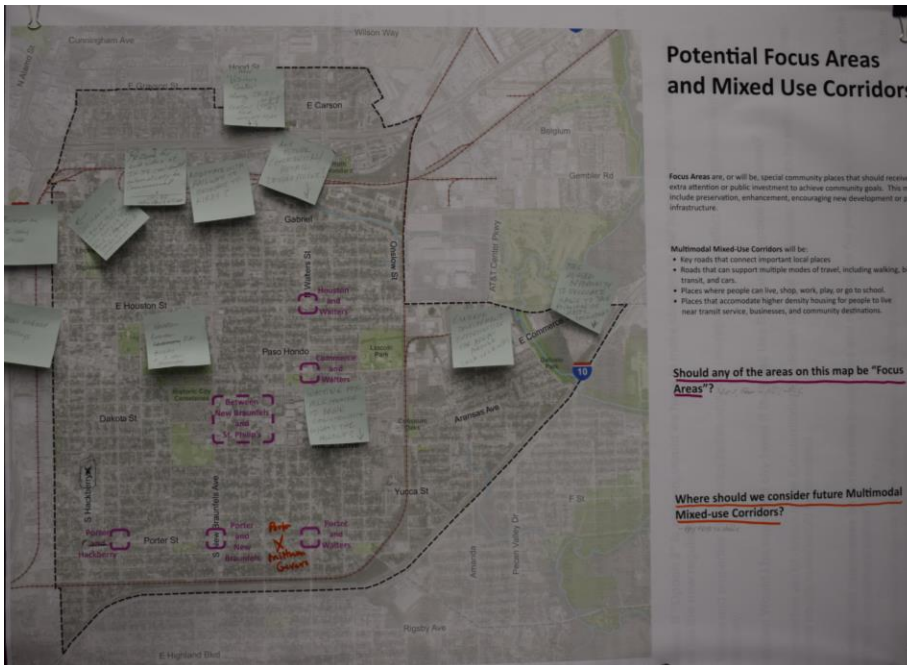
1. Use colored stickers to identify the following on the map:
 ● = assets ● = challenges ● = opportunities

2. Briefly, how would you describe this area and how it enhances or detracts from the community?
H.E.B. SHOULD CONSIDER PURCHASING RETAIL CENTER ACROSS HOUSTON STREET

3. What, if anything, is special about the buildings, public spaces, natural environment, or community life in this area?
NEW BRAUNFELS CORRIDOR NEEDS MAJOR FACE LIFT.

4. In the future, this area should be (check all that apply):
☒ a place for more people to live
☒ a place for more people to work, shop, or run errands
☒ a place that includes opportunities to play, recreate, or gather.

Explain your answers or provide any additional comments on the back:
HOUSTON ST. CORRIDOR SHOULD ALSO BE ADVANCED DUE TO BEING A MAIN ENTRANCE/EXIT TO ATR CENTER



Potential Focus Areas and Mixed-use Corridors

The comments offered here tended to address other topics or pose questions aside from the intended subject, which was to identify additional focus areas and mixed-use corridors. Comments expressed some interest in there being new development south of AT&T Center, next to Walters Street, and next to Houston Street between Cherry Street and New Braunfels Avenue.



Eastside Community Plan Community Meeting #2 Summary

Neighborhood Priorities

The results of neighborhood priorities worksheets will be used to create each Neighborhood Profile and Priority section of the Eastside Community Plan.

Next Steps

The Planning Team will meet during the summer to provide guidance to the Planning Department for creating the Eastside Community Plan.

The next Community Meeting will be held in Fall 2019. Objectives for this meeting will include obtaining public input related to land use, focus areas and corridors, housing and economic development strategies, and mobility.

If you have questions about the Eastside Community Plan project, please contact Project Manager Garrett Phillips, City of San Antonio Planning Department.

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