



## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY**

### **Eastside Community Area Plan – November 2019 Intercepts/ Community Drop-in Hours**

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Davis Scott Branch YMCA  
1213 Iowa St, San Antonio, TX 78203  
Attendees: 8

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Denver Heights Community Center  
300 Porter St, San Antonio, TX 78210  
Attendees: 2

November 20, 2019, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
Claude Black Community Center  
2805 E Commerce St, San Antonio, TX 78203  
Attendees: 5

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#### **Meeting Purpose**

The City of San Antonio Planning Department held three intercept events to gather public ideas and preferences to inform the Eastside Community Area Plan Future Land Use recommendations. Other elements of the plan were also open for discussion. The events were an alternative opportunity for stakeholders to provide input on topics that were discussed at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> public meeting at St. Philip's College, and that were available for commenting using the online questionnaire that was available in October and November 2019.

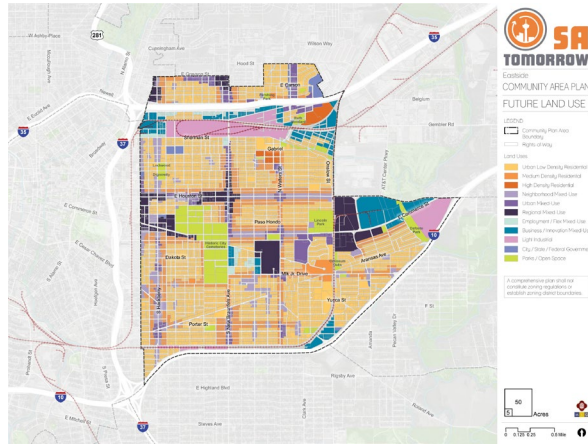
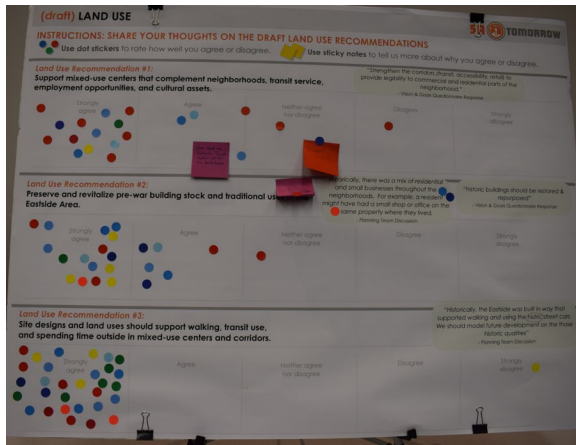
#### **Meeting Promotion**

The Planning Department promoted the events through emails to the plan area email list and using social media.

#### **Meeting Format**

The meetings were designed as open houses featuring the draft future land use map, draft future land use recommendations, and educational material on the purpose and function of land use planning. The materials presented were the same materials presented at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> public meeting at St. Philip's College. Attendees could come as go as they pleased. The project manager provided an overview of the planning process and the scope of the plan, introduced the draft future land use map and recommendations, and invited participants to provide feedback.

## Eastside Community Area Plan Community Meeting #3 Summary



### RESULTS: Commentary on Draft Land Use Recommendations

- Participants asked questions about the draft future land use recommendations and most indicated understanding and agreement with them. One participant voiced relative disagreement with the recommendations, expressing concern about traffic and parking impacts of allowing apartment buildings anywhere, and of allowing small scale commercial uses in neighborhoods.

### RESULTS: Comments on Future Land Use Map

- Participants asked questions about the draft future land use map and most indicated understanding and agreement with it.
- Support the development of regional shopping and entertainment options in the plan area. Small local businesses are a good focus for most of the area, but big box retail and an entertainment center and things that people actually use, and they should be accommodated here closer to home, so that area residents don't have to travel to McCreless Shopping Center and other far away places. The area across Houston Street from the AT&T Center, or somewhere just south of I-35 could be appropriate for this kind of thing.
- The map should reflect flood risk in the area south of Yucca Street.
- Check to see if the future land use designation at the Buffalo Soldiers Cemetery should be changed to reflect the fact that it is a cemetery.
- The large vacant area southeast of the intersection of Walters and Porter, that is designated Urban Mixed Use, might be more appropriate for just residential uses. Small apartment buildings or townhomes would be good here, and leave the mixed use designation just at the intersection of Walters and Porter.
- There is some preference for new construction and rehabilitation in existing neighborhood areas to be in the form of single family homes. Duplexes, triplexes and townhomes could be ok too, but four-plexus seem like to much density.
- Supporting higher density residential infill and reuse of existing buildings around parks is a good idea, for example, around the cemeteries, and around the new Cherry Street Park.
- Properties adjacent to Hackberry, between Houston and Commerce might be most appropriate for the Neighborhood Mixed Use designation.



**RESULTS: Comments not directly about Future Land Use**

- There is a lack of street lighting in Denver Heights.
- Denver Street should be extended through the large vacant area, where it currently dead ends at Walters Street.
- Aransas Street’s diagonal intersections with expansive pavement presents several opportunities to beautify the area, improve pedestrian safety by replacing pavement area with landscaping or planters. Traffic circles could help improve traffic flow at multi street intersections.
- Look at the City of Austin’s program started several years ago to support local businesses and cultural organizations on S, Congress Street, as an example to follow in supporting neighborhood main streets in the Eastside.
- Montana Street could be a featured connections between the Eastside and Downtown for bikers, scooters, and pedestrians. The distance to travel through multiple underpasses is long. The walls in the underpasses should have art.
- Hayes Street Bridge should be a featured bicycle and pedestrian connection between Downtown and Eastside. It is already part of a designated “Hike and Bike” Trail. The route should somehow connect down to the Historic Cemeteries as part of a cultural loop or route.
- The Eastside Cemeteries Plan should be revived and implemented. Some initial steps to take would include connecting a pathway from Pittman Sullivan YMCA to the north through the St. Anthony Avenue Right of Way to Wyoming Street and then to the Buffalo Soldiers Cemetery and ultimately Fairchild Park farther north.
- There are concerns about property tax increases.
- Homeowner rehabilitation programs should include loans so that some of the money gets paid back to the city and can be used to help more people. The loans should be very low interest and ultimately forgivable if the borrower can’t pay the loan back.
- If higher density residential and mixed use development happens, there needs to be investment to improve pedestrian safety in surrounding areas for all the people that would live in those places.
- Sidewalk improvements should be focused in areas where there is an existing concentration of no sidewalks.
- There should be better property maintenance and boarded up homes should be rehabilitated and used.

**Next Steps**

The Planning Department will use the public input from these events, the online questionnaire that was available in October and November 2019, and the October 22<sup>nd</sup> public meeting to continue creating the Eastside Community Area Plan.

The next Community Meeting will be held in 2020 to obtain public input on the draft Eastside Community Area Plan.

The Existing Conditions Atlas, further information about subsequent public meetings, and other documents, boards, and materials from this community meeting and planning team meetings can be found in the Document Library on our plan website: <https://eastside.sacompplan.com>

If you have questions about the Eastside Community Plan 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