



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Eastside Planning Team Meeting #9
Date: January 16, 2019
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Location: St. Philip’s College, Campus Center Building, Heritage Room
Attendees:

James Dickerson, Coliseum Willow Park *Christine Vina, VIA Metropolitan Transit*
Denise Homer, Government Hill *Michelle Garza, San Antonio River*
Monica Savino, Dignowity Hill *Authority*
Adrian Jackson, St. Philip’s College *Gregory Street, at large*

Meeting Purpose

The ninth meeting of the Eastside Planning Team aimed to obtain input that the Planning Department will use to create the draft amenities and infrastructure section and focus areas section for the SA Tomorrow Eastside Community Area Plan.

Meeting Format

Planning Department staff and the consultant team facilitated the meeting, and provided a presentation which guided the meeting agenda. The presentation can be found at the documents library on the plan website: <https://eastside.sacomplan.com/documents/>.

To start the meeting, the project team provided an overview of the planning process and presented an overview of what we mean by “amenities” within this plan context. Amenities here means public places and goods, such as plazas, public art, and landscaping of public streets.

After this introduction, Michele Garza of the San Antonio River Authority presented on the function and benefits of green stormwater infrastructure, and facilitated discussion throughout the presentation. Then, Planning Team Members were invited to discuss what kinds of amenities are lacking in the Eastside Community Area, and what priorities they have for public amenities and infrastructure investment.

Then, the Planning Team had a more focused discussion about urban design, amenities, and infrastructure priorities in four focus areas. The focus areas are the following streets, and the blocks on either side of them: Hackberry Street, New Braunfels Avenue, Houston Street, and Commerce Street.

Discussion

Images of the recorded discussion on a wall graphic and large maps are provided following the narrative summary below.

Discussion on Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- The presentation on Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) generated significant interest and support from the Planning Team.
- Stronger incentives for developers, and more assistance programs for individual property owners and small organizations could increase the use of GSI on private property. For the City to use more GSI to manage stormwater from streets, it may need to consider the relative costs and benefits of GSI vs, traditional stormwater infrastructure in a more holistic way that considers longer time periods and multiple public benefits and costs associated with each approach.
- Planning Team members asked questions about the relative costs and benefits of GSI, how GSI is funded and maintained, and how the City, the San Antonio River Authority, and developers can increase the use of GSI.
- The following locations were identified for potential public green stormwater infrastructure sites, where there may be underutilized public right of way.
 - Diagonal intersections along Aransas Avenue.
 - Hackberry Street, north of Nolan Street.
 - Cesar Chavez Boulevard, from Iowa Street to Hackberry Street, as a linear stormwater park.
 - Other locations identified for improved streetscaping in the focus areas maps discussed below.

Discussion on Amenities and Infrastructure throughout the Plan Area

- Public amenity improvements should focus on improving the function, visibility and connections to the area's assets and existing amenities. The discussion identified an opportunity to improve pedestrian connections into and across the historic cemeteries.
- The function, visibility and connections to existing amenities should be improved including:
 - The historic cemeteries, including the Buffalo Soldiers Cemetery, and the Young Perry Alsbury gravesite
 - Menger Creek – Salado Creek connection
 - Pershing Park
 - Ft. Sam Houston and related historical sites in Government Hill
- The intersection of New Braunfels Avenue and Houston Street should include a transit plaza in the future. It is the intersection of two of VIA's planned Advanced Rapid Transit corridors.
- The Menger Creek Linear Park should be connected to the Salado Creek Greenway with a trail that follows Menger Creek through the fair grounds.



- The linked history of Ft. Sam Houston and Government Hill should be highlighted, potential with a historical marker on Grayson Street.
- The historic eastside cemeteries should have intuitive connections with surrounding public spaces and main streets.
- The introductory presentation on amenities generated questions about how public amenities on private property, such as a plaza, are incented and how they can be guaranteed to remain public.

Discussion of the four Focus Areas

- On Houston Street, the commercial nodes at Gevers Street, Walters Street, and Mel Waiters Way were identified as priority areas for streetscape improvements, to support pedestrian oriented places. A transit hub, with buildings fronting the street, and improved streetscaping was identified for the intersection of Houston Street and New Braunfels Avenue. Houston Street should include improved wayfinding identifying directions to historic resources in surrounding areas.
- On Commerce Street, priority street frontage was identified for the areas between Cherry Street and Monumental Street. Priority street frontage, improved streetscaping, and improved sidewalks were identified between New Braunfels Avenue and Mittman Street. Improving alley access may be key to implementing the concepts for this area. Improved lighting was also identified as a priority for the whole length of Commerce Street.
- On Hackberry Street, priority streetscape improvements were identified between Commerce Street and Hays Street, and priority building frontage was identified between Essex Street and Florida Street. Improved street lighting was identified for the whole corridor. Priority connections to Downtown, including opportunities for improved way finding were identified for the intersections of streets that have decent pedestrian or bicycle connections with Downtown, including Carolina, Florida, Montana, Nolan, and Hayes Streets. The sections of Hackberry Street that are north of Nolan Street was identified as a priority for improving streetscaping, pedestrian infrastructure and or bicycle infrastructure. Because Hackberry does not cross I-35, it's character and role north of Nolan Street does not have to as oriented to moving vehicles as it is today.
- On New Braunfels Avenue, priority street frontage was identified on the blocks south of Houston Street. Wayfinding and improved streetscaping were identified for blocks adjacent to the Historic Cemeteries. In the blocks north and south of Porter Street, improved streetscaping was identified, to reinforce the concept of this area serving a southern gateway into the plan area. Improved lighting was identified for the area south of Iowa Street to I-10.

LEGEND

- Regional Center Boundary
- Park or Open Space
- Stream, Creek or River
- Rail Line
- 5-Foot Countour
- Focus Area Boundary

FOCUS AREA EXERCISE

- Priority Connections
- Trail
- Improved Streetscape
- Priority Street Frontage
- Mobility Hub
- Existing Plaza
- Proposed Plaza
- Proposed Park/Open Space
- Priority Redevelopment
- Character-Defining Features
- Public Art
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Improved Lighting

Focus Area Maps Discussion Topics



Next Steps

The tenth Planning Team Meeting will occur in February, 2020. The objective for this meeting is to review draft mobility concepts that are based on input from Planning Team Meeting #8. The Project Team will create and publish a draft Amenities and Infrastructure section based on input from Planning Team Meeting #9 and other public involvement. A public meeting will be held in summer 2020, for the public to review the draft Eastside Community Area Plan.

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

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LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ HOW DO WE WORK W/ DEVELOPERS TO IMPLEMENT?
 - ↳ FINANCIAL
 - ↳ EMOTIONAL
 - ↳ ENVIRONMENTAL
- ▶ OPPORTUNITIES
 - ↳ RAIN GARDENS
 - ↳ GREEN STREETS
 - ↳ LANDSCAPING
- ▶ WHO MAINTAINS IMPROVEMENTS?
- ▶ NEED EDUCATION
- ▶ MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS IS BIG CONSIDERATION
- ▶ CONSIDER HERITAGE TREES WHEN REDEVELOPING
- ▶ NEED MORE SINGLE FAMILY PROGRAMS
- ▶ TCI SHOULD CONSIDER COST OF WASHOUTS ON ROADS

AMENITIES

- ▶ HOW DO PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE PRIVATE OPEN SPACE OR AMENITIES WORK?
- ▶ ARE THERE WAYS TO CODIFY PUBLIC ACCESS?
- ▶ TRANSIT PLAZAS
- ▶ CEMETERIES
- ▶ BUFFALO SOLDIERS
- ▶ TRAIL HEADS
- ▶ HISTORICAL BURIAL SITE
- ▶ IMPROVE PARK IN GOVT HILL
- ▶ HISTORIC MARKER ON GREGSON
- ▶ ACCESS TO FORT SAM MUSEUM
- ▶ LINK GOVT HILL TO FORT SAM FOR HISTORIC PRES.

Recording of the Planning Team's overall discussion of amenities and infrastructure.

Recording of the Planning Team's discussion.

Conceptual connections between Menger Creek and Salado Creek Trails along Menger Creek through the fairgrounds (left).

Improved pedestrian connections along and through the Historic Eastside Cemeteries (right).





Recording of the Planning Team's discussion of Hackberry Street and New Braunfels Avenue Focus Areas.





Recording of the Planning Team’s discussion of Houston Street and Commerce Street Focus Areas.

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SA Tomorrow Sub-Area Planning Eastside Community Area Plan Planning Team Meeting #9

Thursday January 16th, 2019

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

St. Philip's College, Campus Center Building, Heritage Room

Meeting Agenda

6:00	Welcome and Update on Planning Process
6:10	Amenities and Infrastructure Overview and Discussion
7:00	Focus Areas Discussion
7:50	Next Steps and Meeting Ends

Meeting #9 Take Home Information to Share

- The Planning Department hosted an open house public meeting, online questionnaire and three community office hours events in October and November to share information and obtain public input to inform the Eastside Community Area Plan's sections on future land use and development, housing, economic development strategies, and transportation. The results are available on the project webpage, and revised draft plan sections will be posted to the project webpage in early 2020.
- The Planning Team discussed mobility in meeting number #8 (December) and will revisit this topic in meeting #10 (February), and will discuss amenities, infrastructure and focus areas in meeting #9 (January). More information on the scope of these topics is available on the project webpage.
- A final public meeting and questionnaire will be held in 2020, when the complete draft plan is available for the public to review.
- The Eastside Area Community Plan Project Manager is available to visit a meeting of your neighborhood association or organization, to share information about the planning process. Contact Garrett Phillips at 210.207.5441, garrett.phillips@sanantonio.gov.

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SA Tomorrow
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c/o Planning Department

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