

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Eastside Planning Team Meeting #10
Date: February 12, 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 *Lindsey Logan, San Antonio for Growth*
Will Covington, Coliseum Willow Park *on the Eastside*
Jessica Brunson, CoSA Transportation
and Capital Improvements Department

Meeting Purpose

The tenth meeting of the Eastside Planning Team aimed to obtain input that the Planning Department will use to create the draft mobility section, 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 previous public input related to mobility. Then the planning team provided feedback on the draft mobility framework map. Following this portion of the meeting, Planning Team member Christine Vina of VIA Metropolitan Transit presented on VIA’s process for recommending changes to the City’s Unified Development Code, as a next step in implementing Advanced Rapid Transit service recommended in the VIA Vision 2040 Plan.



Discussion

Planning Team Members comments are summarized below.

On the Draft Mobility Framework Map, the following changes should be considered:

- Additional mobility hubs should be added, near St Philip’s College, AT&T Center, and possible other locations.
- Reduce the number of pedestrian focus areas, so that there are fewer priority areas. Consider adding pedestrian focus areas near the Hayes Street Bridge and near Commerce Street and Dafoste Avenue. Otherwise, the focus should be on improving pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and nearby goods and services.
- Hackberry Street and Walters Street should be identified as “Balanced / Multimodal.”
- Iowa Street should be identified as “Bicycles / Micromobility.”
- Accommodating advanced rapid transit service on Houston Street will involve challenging tradeoffs, given the street’s width. VIA should remain open to providing this service on Commerce Street as an alternative to Houston Street.

Additional observations by Planning Team Members included the following:

- Throughout the eastside, limited street widths and stakeholder skepticism of the benefits of enhancing I transportation options, will make it challenging for the City to make improvements for walking, biking, and transit service.
- VIA bus ridership is only increasing on the routes that have recently had their bus frequency increased.
- Following the City’s new regulations to limit the number of dockless scooters available throughout the city, dockless vehicle use declined on the eastside.
- The City Planning Department, Transportation and Capital Improvements Department, and VIA Metropolitan Transit Service should ensure that they continue coordinating their planning initiatives, and communicate to the public how this coordination works.
- San Antonio’s development patterns are so dispersed that improvements in multimodal transportation options will not achieve their full potential. More people living closer to more destinations would increase the viability of transit, bicycling, and walking as modes of first choice.
- Mobility recommendations should scale to, or reflect the forecasted population’s mobility needs, so that the transportation network will function with the planned future. In the future contemplated by the draft Eastside Plan, there will be more drivers, transit users, bikers, and pedestrians using the transportation network. There will also be more destinations closer to home, and more destinations located within convenient walking distance of high quality transit service that connects with the Eastside.

Next Steps

The eleventh Planning Team Meeting will occur in April, 2020. The objective for this meeting is to review Digital Design Charrette Results, Focus Areas Recommendations, and Neighborhood Profiles & Priorities. 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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SA Tomorrow Sub-Area Planning Eastside Community Area Plan Planning Team Meeting #10

Wednesday February 12th, 2020

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	Draft Mobility Framework Discussion
7:00	Amenities and Focus Areas Discussion
7:30	VIA Unified Development Code Presentation
7:50	Next Steps and Meeting Ends

Meeting #10 Take Home Information to Share

- The Planning Team discussed mobility in meeting number #8 (December) and reviewed draft mobility concepts in meeting #10 (February). More information on the scope of these topics is available on the project webpage.
- In January 2020, the Planning Department hosted a workshop for Eastside Choice Neighborhood stakeholders to learn about the Eastside planning process and provide input to inform the plan.
- The Planning Department hosted an open house public meeting, online questionnaire and three community office hours events in October and November 2019 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.
- 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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