

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Meeting:** Texas A&M San Antonio Area Community Meeting #1  
**Date:** March 20, 2019  
**Time:** 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Vista Room, Central Academic Building, Texas A&M SA Campus

### MEETING OVERVIEW

The City of San Antonio Planning Department began the first Community Meeting for the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Regional Center Plan

- Gather public input to refine the Medical Center Plan draft vision and goals
- Gather attendees input on draft Focus Areas
- Gather input on place types that could be applicable to the area.

Community input from this meeting, along with additional feedback from the respective planning team members, future intercept events, and online surveys will be used to refine the vision and goals, focus areas, and identify place types applicable to Texas A&M San Antonio Area.

### *Meeting Format*

The meeting consisted of an open house gallery of activities that provided information and encouraged attendees to share their priorities and ideas with the Planning Department staff. The meeting activities and results are detailed below:

### *Resources and General Information*

Participants were greeted by planning staff and provided information on SA Tomorrow and the planning process.

### *Vision and Goals*

The Texas A&M San Antonio Area vision and goals were displayed at a station for attendees to review and comment upon.

**Results:** The attendees generally agreed with the draft vision and goals, one participant suggested a focus on medical clinics and uses in the area. Preserving natural green space, wildlife through water conservation and sustainability efforts was suggested as well. Providing better internet service was suggested. Adding infrastructure, specifically south of campus, was also suggested.

### *Focus Areas:*

Focus area stations displayed an overview and brief descriptions of the focus areas. Participants were asked to identify the assets, challenges and opportunities within each focus areas, and then provide their own suggestion for the future purpose and character of the area. Participants were also asked to identify areas within the plan boundary that would support mixed-use corridors. The results are as follows:

**Focus Area: Jaguar Parkway and University Way**

*The area is located northwest of the intersection of Jaguar Parkway and University Way. The area is entirely vacant. The adopted Verano Master Plan shows the area as offering mixed-uses.*

**Purpose:** live work play

**Character:** safe, active, mixed use, fun/lively

**Mixed Use Corridor:** Jaguar Parkway and University way. University Way & 410, Zarzamora Road, Pleasanton Road.

**Assets:** Both sides of University Way.

**Additional Comments:** “Jaguar Parkway and University way could support a greenway path on both sides”; “The area has a lot of opportunity and promise to provide much needed amenities for Southside area residents.”

**Focus Area: Transit Center**

*This area is located west of Verano Parkway and along Jaguar Parkway. A future transit station will serve the growing Texas A&M San Antonio campus as well as the proposed Verano planned community. VIA Metropolitan Transit’s Vision 2040 Long Range Plan identifies this future station as the final stop on the planned Zarzamora Corridor that will connect the Texas A&M-SA Area to South Park Mall, numerous southside and westside communities, and several existing or planned rapid transit routes serving employment centers such as Downtown and the Medical Center*

**Purpose:** safe-living, comfortable walking, transit stops should be sheltered

**Character:** safe

**Challenges:** Rail Road Crossings.

**Focus Area: Pleasanton Road and Medina River Greenway Trailhead**

*The area is generally where Pleasanton Road intersects the Medina River Greenway Trail, near the southern end of Mitchell Lake. The nearby area is mostly undeveloped and lacks amenities and services that might serve uses of these south San Antonio natural assets. The area has a small parking lot to the east and signage to identify the trail. However, there are no places to sit, or gather, or unique landscaping features. The primary way to access the trailhead is to drive to the parking lot and cross Pleasanton road, which has a crosswalk but no street lighting.*

**Purpose:** Multi-modal mixed use corridor

**Purpose:** Live, work, play

**Character:** N/A

**Assets:** The Medina River Greenway Trailhead



### ***Place Types***

A place types station was set up to gather input asking the attendees to identify the types of places they would like to see in the area the most popular results are as follows:

#### **Trail Oriented Development**

The trail-oriented development place type builds on the growing network of trails and pathways throughout San Antonio and the region. Key features include well-connected, multi-use pathways and trails (often along drainage ways or other water features) multiple trail crossings that include both dedicated pedestrian and bicycle ways as well as vehicular bridges with sidewalks; an strong pedestrian and bicycle connectivity with surrounding neighborhoods. The predominant land uses can vary significantly, ranging from single family residential to medium scaled mixed-use development. Higher intensity development should be limited to select nodes along rail and development should generally provide a substantial buffer between structures and the trail.

#### **Institutional/Campus Mixed-Use**

Large institutional/campus style destinations that could be enhanced with mixed use development, higher density residential land use and open spaces that serve the community. Strong pedestrian and bicycle connections to the surrounding neighborhoods help stitch the institutional anchor into the surrounding community.

#### **Green Neighborhood**

The Green Neighborhood place type typically involves new development focused on optimizing sustainability. Key features include the use of natural drainage ways, a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails, designated areas for urban agriculture, alternative energy production, localized utilities and site orientation for passive lighting, heating and cooling. The land use mix is mostly compact single family residential with the potential for a mixed use node. There are often a variety of small and larger park-like open spaces within the development.

#### **Neighborhood Main Street:**

This place type aligns with the VIA Vision 2040 transit-supportive development typology. It is in an n area within a new or existing land immediately adjacent to the transit facility. The place type provides a safe, quality walking environment for residents nearby. It is ideal for small commercial and entertainment-based districts that draw local patrons. The mix of uses includes local-serving commercial, small scale mixed use, smaller multifamily development and attached single-family residential.

#### **Other Areas:**

**Community Corridor:** Commercial areas with limited available land that may surround a transit facility. It is focused on infill development.

**Natural/Historic/Cultural/Economic Asset:** a place type intended to respect and preserve such places of importance.

#### ***Complete Communities***

The final station was a “complete communities” station which participants were asked to identify the types of places to live and things to do in the area, by placing a sticker on the board of various place types. The results area as follows:



**Places to live and things to do:**

Apartment living, parks and trails, grocery options, retail shops, café's and coffee shops, and community centers

**Places that will make the area more attractive:**

Innovation/research hub, bike lanes, lighting, sidewalks and crossings, gathering places, trees and landscaping. A participant also identified the need for health clinics in the area.

**ONLINE SURVEY**

An online survey has been drafted to request input similar to the questions and activities provided during the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J78GDVT>

<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/YBMTK36> (Spanish Version)

**NEXT STEPS**

The City Planning Department will use the publics' input from Community Meeting #1, along with input generated from intercepts, focus groups, online surveys and the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Planning Team, to develop policy recommendations for the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Regional Center Plan.

More information on the Texas A&M-San Antonio Regional Center Plan:

<https://texasam.sacompplan.com/>

If you have questions about the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Regional Center Plan, please contact Project Manager Carlos Guerra II, City of San Antonio Planning Department.

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