

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Texas A&M San Antonio Area Community Meeting #2
Date: August 29, 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 hosted the second Community Meeting for the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Regional Center Plan. The community meeting was an open house event, with several stations where guests could provide their input. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Gather public input on the Draft Land Use Recommendations, and Housing and Economic Development strategies
- Gather attendees input on draft housing and economic development strategies
- Gather preliminary input to begin drafting mobility strategies

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 Regional Center.

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.

Future Land Use Draft Recommendations

The Texas A&M San Antonio Area draft land use recommendations, along with a large map of the draft future land use map, were displayed at a station for attendees to review and comment upon. Participants were asked to indicate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, remained neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with each recommendation. Participants were also provided an opportunity to elaborate on why they agreed or disagreed.

Draft Recommendation #1: Encourage a greater mixture of uses and higher densities in the northern portion of the plan area.

- Promote high intensity uses near Loop 410 to encourage commercial development and to absorb anticipated population growth.*
- Property north of the Texas A&M University campus should accommodate a mixture of uses, including residences and commercial establishments, at density levels that can help to reinforce this area as the hub for the regional center.*

Participants mostly agreed with this recommendation (2 strongly agree, 4 agree) 2 attendees disagreed with this recommendation but did not provide additional comments for their answer.

Draft Recommendation #2: *Maintain transitions in density and uses between the northern and southern portions of the plan area.*

- a. *Coordination with Texas A&M-San Antonio should continue, in order to align the planning and development of campus activity anchors with the uses of surrounding properties.*
- a. *New residential development should be located north of Mauermann Road when possible.*
- b. *Coordinate infrastructure planning with the Future Land Use Plan to ensure that street networks, public utilities and amenities can support the preferred patterns of growth and development in this regional center.*

Participants agreed with the recommendation (4 strongly agree, 4 agree).

Draft Land Use Recommendation #3: *Facilitate watershed protection and landscape preservation near key riparian corridors in the plan area, such as Leon Creek and the Medina River.*

- a. *Riparian corridors, which are the areas immediately surrounding natural waterways, should not be developed.*
- b. *Stream buffers should be preserved in accordance with SARA's low impact development guidelines and should be used as points of transition for land use wherever possible.*
- c. *Integrated stormwater management planning should be implemented in this plan area, looking to non-structured stormwater management solutions to guide future development form.*

Participants agreed with the recommendation (4 strongly agree, 4 agree).

Draft Land Use Recommendation #4: *Encourage transit-oriented development around transit facilities in the plan area.*

- a. *Site plans and right of way improvements for areas near transit facilities should include components that protect and serve pedestrians and transit riders. These include continuous sidewalks, regular, safe and clearly defined crossing opportunities, pedestrian-oriented treatment of first floor commercial spaces, and bike parking options.*
- b. *Ensure that uses and activities that benefit transit areas are permitted near transit facilities.*
- c. *Promote a mixture of uses near transit facilities which includes affordable housing.*

Participants generally agreed with the recommendation (4 strongly agree, 2 agree, 1 neutral)

Housing Strategies:

Similar to the Land Use station, a display board with the housing strategies was shown and participants were asked to identify if they strongly agreed, agreed, remained neutral, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the strategies. Participants were also provided an opportunity to elaborate on why they agreed or disagreed. The results are as follows:



Housing Recommendation #1: *Attract a diversity of housing products that support the workers and students at the major employers and institutions in the Regional Center*

Participants mostly agreed with the recommendation (2 strongly agree, 4 agree, and 2 disagreed) the participants that disagreed did not elaborate on their answer.

Housing Recommendation #2: *Partner in the investment into creating enhanced neighborhood amenities as a way to attract a diversity of housing options and residents*

Participants all agreed on this recommendation (4 strongly agree, 4 agree).

Housing Recommendation #3: *Protect and integrate the natural topography, aesthetic, and waterways in neighborhoods and mixed-use areas as an attraction for the area and to preserve the existing natural systems in the area*

Participants all agreed on this recommendation (4 strongly agree, 4 agree).

Housing Recommendation #4: *Ensure the area maintains a diversity of housing options affordable to a wide spectrum of potential residents*

Participants generally agreed with this recommendation (4 strongly agree, 2 agree, 1 neutral)

Economic Development Strategies:

A display board with the Economic Development strategies were shown and just like the other exercises, participants were asked to identify if they strongly agreed, agreed, remained neutral, disagreed or strongly disagreed with the strategies. Participants were also provided an opportunity to elaborate on why they agreed or disagreed. The results are as follows:

Economic Development Recommendation #1: *Integrate Texas A&M- SA campus uses into mixed use areas supporting the campus to help catalyze development and support vitality in these areas.*

Participants generally agreed with this recommendation (4 strongly agree, 5 agree).

Economic Development Recommendation #2: *Encourage and build partnerships with and between Texas A&M – SA and Toyota Motor Manufacturing to build opportunities for workforce development and increased research and development activities.*

Participants agreed with this recommendation (5 strongly agree, 4 agree).

Economic Development Recommendation #3: *Work with partners to create opportunities for workforce education and training in conjunction with existing and future education institutions and schools in and around the Regional Center.* Participants agreed with the recommendation (6 strongly agree, 3 agree).



Economic Development Recommendation #4: *Leverage Texas A&M-SA's investment into a athletics and recreation area to create an entertainment and hospitality destination*

Participants mostly agreed. Two participants disagreed with the recommendation but did not elaborate on their answer. (2 strongly agree, 5 agree, 2 disagree.)

Economic Development Recommendation #5: *Support investments needed to create shovel-ready and connected sites for employers*

Participants mostly agreed with this recommendation (2 strongly agree, 3 agree, 2 neither, 1 disagree).

*One participant commented that there should be consideration for small, locally owned businesses, over large "cookie-cutter" type commercial chain developments.

Economic Development Recommendation #6: *Partner with economic development entities and area land owners to attract another anchor employment uses(s) to the Regional Center to help diversify the economic base.*

Participants agreed with this recommendation (5 strongly agree, 4 agree)

Other Economic Development Comments included:

"Bring high speed internet to the area" and "more public libraries, or county BiblioTech"

Mobility:

In order gather input related to mobility, prior to drafting strategies or recommendations, the planning department requested general mobility input from participants. A board with survey type questions was provided and attendees were encouraged to provide their input. The results are as follows.

How easy or difficult is it to walk in your community?

2-very easy, 2-neither, 1-difficult, 3 very difficult

How easy or difficult is it to bicycle or use dock-less scooters in your community?

2 very easy, 1 neither, 3 difficult, 4 very difficult.

How easy or difficult is it to take the bus in your community?

2 neither, 4 difficult, 2 very difficult.

Other comments include:

"Too many potholes!!!" and "Traffic on Pleasanton Road is increasing and is too fast."



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/TxAMSAQ3>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TxAMSAQ3Esp> (Spanish Version)

NEXT STEPS

The City Planning Department will use the publics' input from Community Meeting #2, along with input generated from intercepts, focus groups, online surveys and the Texas A&M San Antonio Area Planning Team, to refine the 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.

Email: carlos.guerra2@sanantonio.gov Phone: (210) 207-5425

