

## MEETING SUMMARY

### Texas A&M San Antonio Regional Center Planning Team Meeting #11: Recap of Amenities & Public Spaces, Focus Areas, DDC Results, VIA UDC Update

**Meeting Date:** February 13, 2020

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Texas A&M San Antonio Campus, Building #108B

**Attendees:**

*Jeff Jordan, STORM*

*Thad Rutherford, Southstar Communities*

*Chris Villa, District 3*

*Oscar Cervantes, STORM*

*Raul Olveda, District 4*

*Mirley Balasubramanya, Texas A&M - SA*

*Irma Duran, NHSD*

*Trevor Liddle, Texas A&M-SA*

*Christine Viña, VIA*

*Krystin Ramirez, MIG*

*Jay Renkens, MIG*

**Meeting Objectives:**

The purpose of Planning Team Meeting #11 was to revisit the discussion on Amenities and Public Spaces from Planning Team Meeting #9 in November, refine the Focus Areas discussion and recommendations, as well as review the Digital Design Charrette Results, followed by an update of VIA's amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC) for transit oriented development.

**Meeting Format**

The meeting began with staff introductions. The group had new attendees representing the South Texas Off-Road Mountain Bikers (STORM Mtb) who provided a brief description of their organization as well as volunteer efforts and projects throughout the city. STORM is a non-profit organization that advocates for mountain bike riders and sustainable trail development and practices throughout San Antonio. The organization also maintains and builds natural surface trails in San Antonio city parks and greenways. After the introduction and a brief discussion, the meeting continued with an overview and recap of the Amenities and Public Spaces discussion from Planning Team Meeting #9, the recap was meant to inform the discussion leading into the refining of the focus areas and DDC results. The meeting was entirely focused on discussion and feedback, and was followed by an overview of the UDC update from VIA.

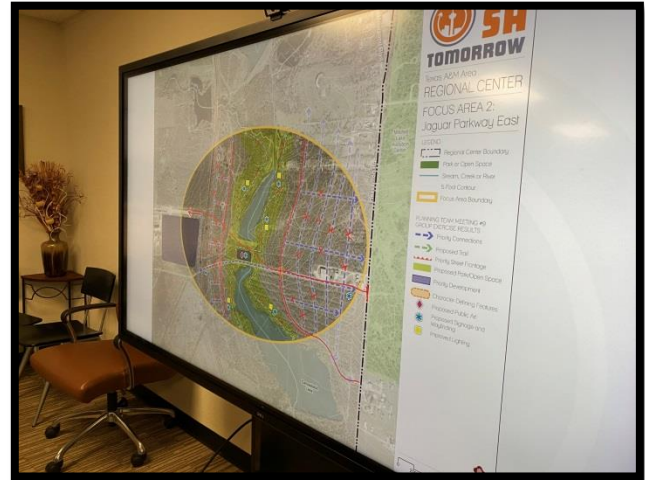
**Recap of PT #9**

The consultant team provided a recap on the Amenities and Public Space meeting. During Planning Team Meeting #9, the team was asked to participate in a mapping exercise to identify priority connections and trails, plazas, parks and open spaces, and areas for priority development. The three selected sites were the focus areas located on University & Jaguar Parkway; Jaguary Parkway East, and the area where the Pleasanton Road and Medina River Greenway intersect.

The first area, University and Jaguar Parkway is the most anticipated focus area development. The team identified priority connections for streets and trails, as well as areas that could facilitate a park or greenspace. The area closest to the intersection was identified for priority development. The current VIDA San Antonio! Plan identifies it as having pedestrian focused mixed uses that interact with the University across the street, and mirrors the entrance to the main campus.

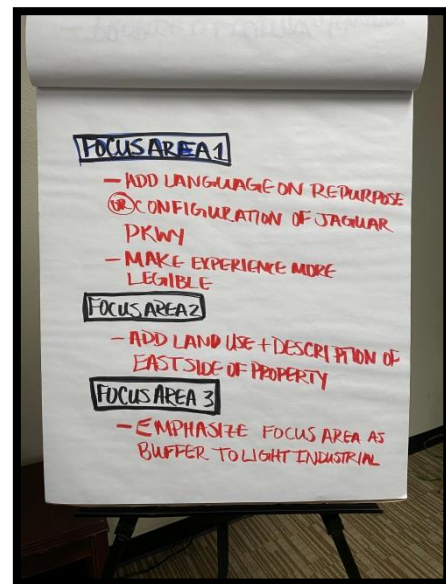
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The second focus area, West of Jaguar Parkway was originally mapped by the planning team as having a grid network and multiple trails. The team was advised to minimize the grid network, as the area has mostly individual property owners, rather, they were asked to focus on the connection from Jaguar Parkway, west and across the rail road. A team member highlighted the high pressure gas line that exists where a priority connection was originally identified, the connection was removed from the map. The team had previously identified the possibility of a park or open space along Canvasback Lake with trails connecting the park to the Medina River



Trailhead to the south and in the third focus area. The focus area could support trail signage and wayfinding, and improved lighting for the trails was discussed. Additional lighting in the area would make the trail and connection safe and inviting, however lighting must consider the dark skies ordinance and the surrounding neighborhood.

The third focus area is where the Pleasanton Road and Medina River Greenway intersect. The planning team has identified the area as supporting a trail connection to Leon Creek, and currently there is a project to enhance the trail from the Parks and Recreation Department. Future planning for this area could include character defining features such as artwork, or murals, and could incorporate recreational amenities such as kayak launch points, scenic overlooks, or birdwatching blinds. The trail could provide additional land use buffer from the heavy industrial uses of Toyota to the South West.



### Focus Area Recap & DDC Results

Leading into the digital design charrette discussion, the project manager provided an overview of each of the focus areas to give the planning team insight on why each area was selected.

The primary focus of the Digital Design Charrette results was the first site, The intersection of Jaguar Parkway and University way. Currently, the VIDA San Antonio project identified the area as the “Zocalo.” The concept of the Zocalo is to reconfigure the current intersection of Jaguar and University Parkway, immediately adjacent to campus. Jaguar Parkway, currently is a wide stretch of concrete and has 8 lanes. The number of lanes, and current configuration, have caused some confusion for which are designated as bus lanes, travel lanes, parking lanes, and bike lanes. The reconfiguration would install landscape islands and create an open space over the area on Jaguar Parkway, just north of the center of the intersection, University Way would be reconfigured to allow one-way traffic north and south, in a



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counter-clockwise direction, around the Zocalo. The reconfiguration would also slow down traffic to make the area more pedestrian friendly and accessible. The concept would be to mirror the campus open space at the entrance to campus. The Zocalo would be a pedestrian friendly open space, with shaded structures, landscaped areas, space for vendors, and open lawn that could support events such as farmer's markets, live music, and other community focused events.



### VIA UDC Amendment

After the discussion of the DDC results, Christine Viña from VIA updated the team on VIA's efforts to amend the current Unified Development Code (UDC) in order to establish development guidelines in conjunction with one of the department's major initiatives: Advance Rapid Transit (ART). ART has identified corridors that could support dedicated bus lanes. The UDC Amendment would establish proper development guidelines for future station areas and for future development around the areas and traffic corridors. VIA incorporates SA Tomorrow Plan elements including; Growth and City Form, Transportation and Connectivity, Housing, and Community Health & Wellness. VIA has hosted a series of public input meetings to identify the community's desires for Transit Oriented Development, and will begin integrating the City's Transportation & Capital Improvements Department (TCI) on defining UDC amendment text, and also integrate San Antonio's Housing Policy Framework. Additional Interagency Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement will continue through February 2020 and is scheduled for review of all code amendments and recommendations by the City's Technical Advisory Committee.

A full version of the presentation is available in the PowerPoint Presentation for Planning Team Meeting #11.

**NEXT STEPS:** Planning staff will analyze the discussion and exercise results to form draft focus area recommendations, as well as provide updates to the planning team. Consultant staff will create a more detailed version of the DDC results and will provide updates to the planning team during Planning Team Meeting #12.

Meeting summaries and presentations will be available on the sub area plan website:

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

If you have any questions about the Texas A&M San Antonio Regional Center Plan, please contact:

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