



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Medical Center Planning Team Meeting #1
Date: June 28, 2017
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Location: San Antonio College, Nursing & Allied Health Complex

Attendees:

Michele Brown, Clarity Child Guidance Center
Krystin Ramirez, Kaufmann & Killeen (USAA)
Calvin R. Finch, Dream Hill Estates HOA
Wesley Waite, Mockingbird Hill NA
Bill Thomas, Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development (NNOD)
Patrick Kaminsky, UT Health San Antonio
Jim Reed, San Antonio Medical Foundation

Meeting Purpose

The first meeting of the Medical Center Planning Team aimed to accomplish these objectives: provide an overview of the Medical Center Regional Center Plan project and timeline; describe potential outreach approach and get input on Medical Center -specific strategies; present a preview of existing conditions; discuss assets, challenges, and opportunities; and review next steps in the planning process.

Meeting Format

The meeting began with a welcome by Mayor Ron Nirenberg and opening remarks from key City of San Antonio planning staff: Director of Planning and Community Development, Bridgett White, AICP; Assistant Director, Rudy Nino, AICP; Planning Administrator, Chris Ryerson as well as a project overview by Jay Renkens, MIG, Inc. planning consultant. Following this introductory presentation, Planning Team members and other participants broke into smaller Sub-Area based groups for focused discussions.

Matthew Prosser, Economic Planning Systems (EPS) Project Manager, presented project context and facilitated a Planning Team discussion. Carlos Guerra, City of San Antonio Project Manager for the SA Tomorrow Medical Center Regional Center Project, recorded comments from the Medical Center session on a large wall graphic (see photo reduction at end of summary). This memo provides highlights of the meeting discussion organized into sections that reflect primary discussion topics:

- Medical Center Engagement Ideas
- Assets/Opportunities
- Challenges
- Other Comments/Questions
- Next Steps

Medical Center Engagement Ideas

Participants provided the following suggestions for potential outreach strategies, as well as stakeholders to involve in the planning process.

Additional Stakeholders

- Northside Chamber of Commerce
- Employers/businesses other than medical related businesses
- Pre-K for SA
- Restaurant/Business owners
- Hotel/Lodging Industry
- Oak Hills NA
- Faith-based organizations
- Bob Ross Senior Center

Outreach Strategies

- Use social media, Neighborhood Facebook Groups, Nextdoor.com
- Provide information for parents picking up children at child care facilities.
- Newsletters: “One-Pagers” summarizing the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan
- Develop relationships with stake holders and share ideas
- Events that could be attended to solicit feedback
 - Neighborhood organized events/block parties
 - Organized 5K races in the medical center
 - Senior Center events
- Set up outside of restaurants/coffee shops
- Target populations to consider additional strategies for
 - Visitors to the Medical Center (often are frequent visitors)
 - Workers in the Medical Center
 - Apartment renters and students

Assets/Opportunities

The Medical Center Area is a very job diverse area with potential for additional transit options, and it is conveniently located close to major thoroughfares.

- Job Diversity, the Medical Center has a variety of jobs, not just in the healthcare industry, but office jobs, retail, and service industry.
- Transit options. Although infrequent, there are established transit lines and well maintained bus stops, there are also existing bike lanes that could be expanded and connect throughout the area.
- Good location. The Medical Center area has convenient access to Interstate 10 and Loop 410.
- Convenient access to medical services. The area is in close proximity to emergency services, clinics, pharmacies, and doctor’s offices.
- Denman Estate Park is one of few parks or public open spaces in the area. The park provides an outdoor setting for relaxation or recreation, and is a focal point for neighborhood residents.



- The park is also home to The Korean Pavilion of Gwangju. The pavilion is a gift from the Metropolitan City of Gwangju and Namkwang Construction to its “sister city” of San Antonio in 2010.
- The former Turtle Creek Golf Course is another green space that has park potential.
- The San Antonio Medical Foundation Walking trail is heavily used, as it is the only walking trail within the Medical Center Area. The trail is approximately two miles, and has potential for pedestrian connectivity.

Challenges

The Medical Center Area largest challenges revolve around mobility for residents, workers and visitors.

- Improving the area’s “walkability.” There are areas of the Medical Center where the sidewalks are narrow or incomplete, and do not provide a safe or convenient path for pedestrian travel.
- Large amount of traffic congestion, both entering/exiting the Medical Center area but also internal congestion. Medical facilities are spread out throughout the area and students, doctors, nurses, employees, patients often need to move between facilities throughout the day.
- Larger arterial roadways are difficult to cross for pedestrians.
- Safety is a common concern for residents and employees in the area. Safety concerns revolved around both safely moving around the area and also safety relating to the 24 hour service environment. There are few bike lanes, incomplete sidewalks, a wide variety of roadway types and limited street lighting and wayfinding for all modes.
- Way-finding is good for cars but used to point drivers to facilities and not parking for the facility. This is improving. Way-finding lacking for other modes potentially. Lack of clear guidance increases traffic congestion.
- Lack of places to gather/open spaces in the area.

Other Comments/Questions

Things to consider moving forward...

- The Medical Center Area is a “24 hour service” area.
 - The hospitals and some clinics are open 24 hours, employees, patients and their families are constantly in and out of the area. Adequate 24 hour lighting, safety and mobility should be considered as the area is used at all times of the day.

Next Steps

Our next meeting will be the week of August 21st. The general consensus with the group was a morning or early afternoon meeting work is most convenient for everyone. I will update the team as soon as we have a firm date, location, and time. In the meantime, we will be reviewing the existing conditions mapping (built systems, existing districts, access barriers, and economic assets) that was provided by our consultants, as well as community outreach, and continued meetings with various focus groups.

If you have any questions please contact me:
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MEDICAL CENTER
REGIONAL CENTER AREA
SA TOMORROW

- OUTREACH**
- ▷ SUB-COMMITTEES
 - ▷ INITIATIVE BASED ORG.
 - ▷ BUS. BOSS OR CENTER
- EVENTS**
- ▷ PARENTS
 - ▷ BUSINESSES (OTHER THAN MED.)
 - > SA CHAMBER
 - > RESTAURANTS
 - > HOTEL/LODGING, INDUSTRY
 - > OAK HILLS NIA
 - ▷ TACTICAL URBANISM
- How?**
- ▷ "ONE-PAGER"
 - ▷ NEWSLETTERS
 - ▷ NEXT-DOOR + SOCIAL MEDIA
 - ▷ DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS
 - ▷ CHANGE IDEAS!

- ASSETS**
- ▷ JOB DIVERSITY
 - ▷ TRANSIT [BUT NOT FREQUENT]
 - ▷ CONVENIENT MED SERVICES
 - ▷ DENMOND ESTATE PARK [PARTNERSHIP w/ UTA]
 - ▷ TURFIE CAROL
 - ▷ CONVENIENT ACCESS [I-10 - 410]
 - ▷ WALKING TRAIL
 - ▷ SAMP

- CHALLENGES**
- ▷ "NOT GOOD" SIDEWALKS
 - TOO NARROW
 - INCOMPLETE
 - ▷ CONGESTION [TOO FEW EXIT RAMP]
 - EMPLOYEES VISIT SERVICES VS WORKING
 - ▷ NO DIRECT LINE ON PARKING [NARROW STREETS]
 - ▷ SAFETY
 - PEDESTRIANS
 - DRUGS
 - BUS RIDERS
 - ▷ PARKING [TOO MANY]
 - WAY-FINDING

- OPPORTUNITIES**
- ★ THINGS TO CONSIDER...
"CHALLENGES ARE OPPORTUNITIES"
- ▷ PRE-K FOR SA
 - ▷ 24 HOUR "SERVICE"
 - ▷ LIGHTING
 - ▷ SAFETY
 - ▷ LOTS OF JOBS
 - + JOB DIVERSITY

