

MEETING SUMMARY

Medical Center Area Planning Team Meeting #7

Meeting Date: May 2, 2018

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: San Antonio Medical Foundation Office: 8431 Fredericksburg Rd, Ste 548

Attendees:

Jim Reed, San Antonio Medical Foundation

Bill Thomas, NNOD

Calvin Finch, Dream Hill Estates NA

Arturo Herrera, VIA

Michael Schaefer, Methodist Health Systems

Nick Del Valle, UTHSCSA

Emily Christy, USAA

Hannah Santiago, Cambridge Systematics

Mysti Downing, SARA

Mark De La Torre, MIG

Jay Renkens, MIG

Krystin Ramirez, Kaufman & Killen

Frank A. Ramirez, District 7 Council Office

Wes Waite, Mockingbird Hill NA

Vicki Vaughan, Mockingbird Hill NA

Meeting Objectives:

The purpose of Planning Team Meeting #7 was to review and discuss the edits to the Future Land Use Map that was first presented to the planning team during Planning Team Meeting #6, followed by a presentation and group exercise on amenities and infrastructure improvements. The last item on the agenda was a discussion with Cambridge Systematics on mobility.

Meeting Format

The Medical Center Area Regional Center Project Manager, Carlos Guerra presented an update on the planning process, and a discussion on the revised draft future land use map. The edits to the map were from group discussions during Planning Team Meeting #6, and also from planning staff. After a general review of the entire plan boundary, the presentation reviewed the future land use designations near the four focus areas that the planning team had identified earlier in the planning process. After a brief discussion on the focus areas, Jay Renkens, Principal in Charge of MIG, presented on amenities and infrastructure, following the presentation, the team broke out into two groups to identify on a map, areas for amenities and pedestrian improvements. Following the break out group activities, the team convened and reviewed the results of the exercise. After the exercise Hannah Santiago, of Cambridge Systematics, facilitated a discussion on mobility.

Revised Draft Future Land Use Map

The draft future land use map was presented to the planning team. Previous changes to the map included reducing proposed densities within single family neighborhoods, increasing the density near Interstate 10 from Community Commercial to Regional Commercial, the Texas Department of Transportation property along 410 was also changed to “City/State/Federal Government” property to reflect ownership, and the southern tip of the planning boundary near Evers Road was designed as “employment/flex mixed-use” based on the current I-1 zoning. The planning team agreed with the changes to the draft future land use map. Following an overview of the changes, the project manager focused on the land use designations adjacent to the four focus areas the planning team had identified earlier in the planning process. The planning team agreed to the proposed land use designations around the focus areas.

Complete Neighborhoods: Infrastructure and Amenities

Jay Renkens briefed the planning team on infrastructure and amenities. The infrastructure and amenities plan is essential for the Community Health & Wellness, Natural Resources, and Public Facilities & Community Safety elements of the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. The infrastructure and amenities presentation briefly described active recreation opportunities, natural features of the area, storm water management, low impact development (LID) techniques, social spaces for gathering and community events, signage and way finding, tree canopy and landscaping, healthy food access, pedestrian safety, lighting, public art and character defining features. The purpose of the presentation was to get the planning team to consider which of the elements are most critical to creating complete neighborhoods in the Medical Center Sub Area, as well as provide context to guide the mapping exercise that followed.



Group Discussion & Mapping Exercise

The planning team was divided into two groups on each ends of the conference table. MIG staff and the two project managers instructed the groups to identify where the desired elements (described above) should be located on large print outs of the “Plan Framework Map.” The groups were asked to identify areas or corridors where they would like to see linear parks, trail connections, healthy food options, farmer’s markets, gateways and public art. After about 15 minutes of discussion and mapping, the groups reported their results.

The report out from Group #1 is as follows:

- There are opportunities to build off of the current green street projects from the South Texas Medical Center Master Plan.
- Community gardens or farmer’s markets could be sponsored by local organizations: church’s, large employers, or city owned properties.
- Access to and from the area should be easier for people living in close proximity to the plan area.
- Gateways with public art could be located near Denman Estate Park of the UT-Health Science Center to enhance the area and add to its uniqueness.



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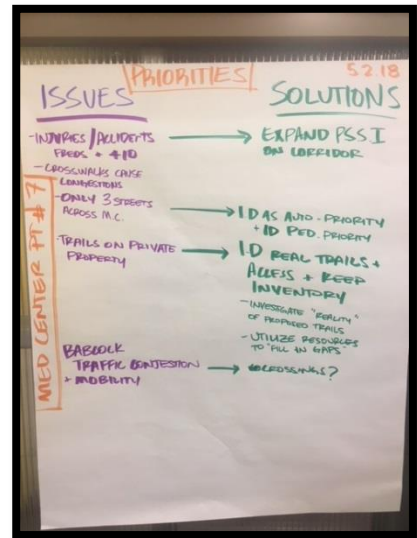
The results from Group #2 are as follows:

- Trial and pedestrian connectivity is a priority for the area. There currently exists a lack of connectivity on the south east end of the plan boundary.
- Fredericksburg Road, between Wurzbach and Callaghan was also identified as a priority intersection. Traffic moves fast and there is limited street lighting, there is a need to improve pedestrian crossings.
- Linear parks are essential to the overall goal of having more public green spaces, not just trail connections.
- Community gardens could provide healthy food choices within the area. There are very limited options for fresh produce, and healthy restaurants within the plan boundary.
- Gateway signage should be prioritized within the center of the plan boundary.



Mobility Discussion:

After the groups debriefed from the mapping exercise Hannah Santiago encouraged a discussion on mobility. The planning team was asked to identify priority issues and suggest solutions to the issues. The issues included: common pedestrian injuries and accidents along Fredericksburg to Loop 410 (the south end of the planning boundary) a solution to the issue was expanding the areas for pedestrian streetscape improvements. However, a team member suggested that additional crosswalks have caused congestion in other areas in the medical center. Another issue was that there are only 3 streets that cross the entire plan boundary, the proposed solution would be to identify which streets should prioritize automobiles and which should prioritize pedestrian mobility. The planning team also identified private property easements that could be utilized as trails as a barrier to connectivity. The proposed solution would be to identify which trails or easements belong to the city and maintain an inventory, also to investigate the reality of the proposed trails, and utilize resources to fill in the gaps between areas with limited connectivity. The planning team also identified the traffic congestion on Babcock Road as an issue to mobility; additional pedestrian crossings could funnel pedestrians to designated crossings.



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NEXT STEPS:

Neighborhood Action Strategies: Staff will be meeting with neighborhoods-at the neighborhoods request to develop specific neighborhood action strategies unique to the respective neighborhoods. Please contact project manager Carlos Guerra to schedule a meeting or to receive a draft template.

Planning Team Meeting #8 will be held sometime during the 3rd week in July.

Community Meeting #3: End of July or Early August 2018.

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

<https://medical-center.sacomplan.com/>

If you have any questions about the Medical Center Area Regional Center Plan, please contact Project Manager: Carlos Guerra II, City of San Antonio Planning Department.

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