

MEETING SUMMARY

Medical Center Area Planning Team Meeting #8

Meeting Date: January 16th, 2019

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

Andy Rutz, MIG

Vicki Burch-Vasquez, Cude Engineers

Mysti Downing, SARA

Jay Renkens, MIG

Krystin Ramirez, MIG

Frank A. Ramirez, District 7 Council Office

Wes Waite, Mockingbird Hill NA

Meeting Objectives:

The purpose of Planning Team Meeting #8 was to discuss the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities approach, followed by a presentation on the Amenities and Infrastructure Recommendations, as well as a brief on the status of the Mobility Recommendations. The last item on the agenda was a discussion on the Digital Design Charrette Results from June 2018.

Meeting Format

The Medical Center Area Regional Center Project Manager, Carlos Guerra presented an update on the planning process, and a discussion on the approach to the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities section of the plan. The plan is in the 4th Phase which includes Recommendations and Implementation Strategies. The meeting was presentation and discussion focused. The Project Manager provided the new approach to engaging neighborhoods to get recommendations for the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities section of the plan. MIG staff then presented information on the Amenities and Infrastructure framework, followed by a group discussion. After the presentation and discussion on Amenities and Infrastructure Framework, the Project Manager presented and discussed the Mobility Framework Recommendations. The last portion of the meeting was a presentation by MIG staff on the Digital Design Charrette Results.



Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities Approach

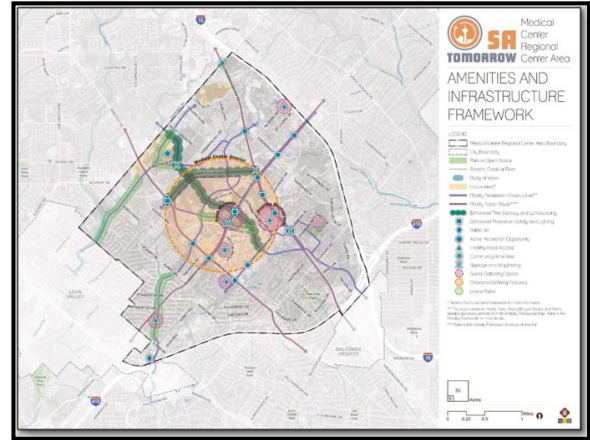
The Medical Center Regional Center Plan will require a unique approach to the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities section. Being that the area is limited in registered neighborhood associations. Staff has met with the Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development (NNOD) and has encouraged council offices and neighborhood representatives to share brief surveys for residents to describe the uniqueness of their neighborhoods, as well as the challenges, strengths and opportunities. The last section of the survey asks residents to list key items that they consider to be planning priorities within their area. The

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group agreed that focus should be placed on Denman Estate Park, and tree protection in the existing neighborhoods was also very important.

Infrastructure and Amenities

Following the brief discussion on the Neighborhood approach, Andy Rutz from MIG presented a on Infrastructure and Amenities. The Infrastructure and Amenities portion focusses on active recreation opportunities, natural features to celebrate, storm water management practices, 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 presentation continued on a more focused discussion on its applicability within the plan boundary. The Medical Center itself is a Character-Defining Feature, pedestrian enhancements along priority transit routes are essential, and there is a need for healthy food access. The new Amenities and Infrastructure map provides tree canopy and lighting enhancements East and West along Hamilton Wolfe and North to South along Floyd Curl Drive. The map also details pedestrian enhancements largely along priority transit routes such as North to South along Fredericksburg Road, East to West along Wurzbach Road, and North to South along Babcock Road. The group specified the need for pedestrian enhancements near Dreamhill Estates for crosswalk safety as well as Datapoint Drive. The group also discussed the importance of safe pedestrian access to the Bob Ross Senior Center, and on Babcock Drive near the Merton Minter intersection.

Social Gathering spaces were also discussed within the plan boundary. A node adjacent to Fredericksburg Road, with healthy restaurants, nodes along Wurzbach and Floyd curl, along greenways and a node at Babcock and Louis Pasteur are also shown on the map. The group generally agreed that more healthy restaurants were needed in the plan area.

The next section of Amenities and Infrastructure was character defining features. The group had discussed that the Medical Center, itself, was a character defining feature. The group was also asked about other character defining features, a development near Wurzbach and Babcock with no setback line was an example of the type of development that the team would not like to see more of in the area. The group then considered adding design criteria to the plan.

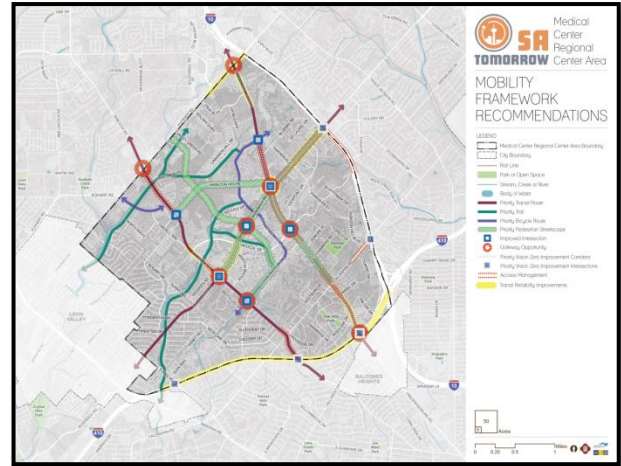
The final portion of Amenities and Infrastructure was the potential for linear parks, specifically along South Rincon Blvd, along the greenways and through the central portion of the plan area.



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Mobility

After the discussion on Amenities and Infrastructure, the project manager discussed the mobility recommendations with the team. The mobility recommendations included: working with the Vision Zero goal to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries-the Planning Department can do this by analyzing crash data to prioritize areas for improvements, completing the multi modal network by leveraging existing assets to implement critical connections, such as the completion of the Floyd Curl Greenstreet Project-which is not an SA Tomorrow project, but rather an example of sound development that the team would like to see more of, managing transportation demand by creating walkable places and supporting vehicular flow, and finally supporting the VIA Rapid Transit Corridor service by prioritizing transit supportive policies.



Digital Design Charrette Results

The final portion of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing the results of the digital design charrette. The digital design charrette was conducted in June of 2018 and its intent was to be highly conceptual and aspirational. The charrette was intended to embody the vision and goals expressed throughout the process and provide inspiration across the sub area. The first area the team discussed was the intersection at Wurzbach and Babcock. Regardless of future use, engaging the street and promoting an active ground floor was highlighted, deliberate creation of public space should be considered at street level. The second site was the USAA Blvd area. The area could support clustered development, up to 3 stories, that would create walkable streets, organized around shared amenities. The aspiration of the area was to explore a denser set of development types along Huebner to incentivize amenities for the surrounding area. The group embraced creating a range of housing options that provided density within the area.

NEXT STEPS:

Mobility Recommendations : Staff will be meeting with Cambridge Systematics, TCI, VIA, TxDOT, and Alamo Area MPO to discuss the mobility recommendations for the plan.

Planning Team Meeting #9 will be held in mid-March 2018

Community Meeting #3: Week of March 25th, 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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