



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Downtown Planning Team Meeting #8
Date: February 28, 2019
Time: 5:30 - 8:00 pm
Location: Madison Square Presbyterian Church, 319 Camden
Attendees:

<i>Santiago Jaramillo, VIA</i>	<i>JD Simpson, SA Bike Share</i>	<i>Darryl Ohlenbusch, Lavaca NA</i>
<i>Ernest Haffner, UTSA</i>	<i>Elizabeth Kertesz, SA 2030 District</i>	<i>Warren Wilkinson, Centro</i>
<i>Thomas Davis, Roosevelt Park NA</i>	<i>Christopher Lazaro, CCDO</i>	<i>Steve Graham, San Antonio River</i>
<i>Jason Rodriguez, HNTB</i>	<i>Vincent Michael, San Antonio</i>	<i>Authority</i>
<i>Zet Baer, King William Association</i>	<i>Conservation Society</i>	

Meeting Purpose

The purpose of Planning Team Meeting #8 was to preview recommendations for the identified focus areas, revisit the mobility framework, complete the discussion of the amenities and infrastructure framework with emphasis on “character defining features,” discuss neighborhood profiles and priorities with focus on the Downtown Core area, and present the results of the Digital Design Charrette held in June 2018.

Meeting Format

The Downtown Regional Center Project Manager, Jacob Floyd presented the focus areas described in the plan framework diagram and briefly recapped their purpose and significance to the plan framework. He then facilitated a discussion with the planning team on the initial draft recommendations recording comments via wall graphic notes poster. This was followed by a presentation of the draft mobility framework diagram by Jacob Floyd, once again with facilitated discussion and comments recorded via wall graphic poster and tabletop maps. Jay Renkens, Principal in Charge with MIG then reviewed the amenities and infrastructure framework and elaborated on the concept of “character defining features.” He and Jacob then led the planning team in a discussion to further refine the amenities and infrastructure framework. Jacob Floyd presented an overview of the importance of and the inputs that are considered in the development of the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities sections of the plan, as well as the draft priorities for the Downtown Core area of the plan. Feedback was recorded on the wall graphic poster. Lastly, Jay Renkens presented the results of the Digital Design Charrette held in June of 2018. Jacob Floyd and Jay Renkens concluded the meeting, the last before a draft plan is presented, by asking the planning team for their thoughts on potential “big moves” for the plan area.

This memo provides a summary of the Downtown Planning Team discussion.

Planning Team Comments - Focus Areas

- How do design guidelines fit into the focus area recommendations?

- The SA Tomorrow sub-area plans should incorporate recommendations of the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan
- The Framework Diagrams lack continuity in recommended streetscape improvements
- The River Improvement Overlay districts should be included in the land use section of the plan.
- The plan should include recommendations concerning how to transition between areas of higher density and lower density and how to diminish displacement as areas evolve.

Planning Team Comments - Mobility

- The plan should recommend development of an operational plan for downtown, especially after the 2017 Bond projects are implemented. Much has changed since the previous Downtown Transportation Study in 2012.
- McCullough - Nolan present opportunity for an East-West connection across the plan area.
- Priority pedestrian streets should be connected to one another.
- Consideration of Regional/District parking utility
 - Park on periphery and walk in
 - Promote transit use
- Incorporate smart city technology (e.g. Alamo Commutes App)
- Connections to UTSA are important
- Tuk Tuks could expand mobility options
- Lone Star Boulevard (continuing on Drexel) presents an East-West connection
- An improved pedestrian crossing is needed where Probandt Avenue crosses beneath US Highway 90
- Incorporate bike recommendations from past planning work
- Connect the mobility maps for Downtown, Midtown, and the West Side plan areas

Planning Team Comments - Amenities and Infrastructure

- Character defining features:
 - Southtown - Friendly Spot
 - Historic Districts
 - Centro Plaza
 - Blue Star
 - the Broadway Corridor
 - expanded cooperative (public & private) contributions to a larger, greener network of public space, trees, landscaping, and green infrastructure
 - Remove Concepcion Park from the diagram map
- Santa Rosa Streetscape improvements - it has a 90ft right-of-way
- San Saba & Commerce Street
- Clean up visual clutter (e.g. signage & wayfinding)
- SA Climate Ready (Climate Action and Adaptation Plan) recommendations

Planning Team Comments - Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities

- Should transition in scale from higher-density areas to lower-density residential
- Encourage other uses in the downtown core
- Need more people living in the core
- Decade of the Downtown Core

- Make use of underutilized lots
- Explore concept of bonuses (like density bonus) for including residential development in downtown core projects.

Planning Team "Big Moves"

- the Downtown Regional Center may be the most important of the Regional Centers identified in the Comprehensive Plan. It needs another decade to reach full potential.
- Residential development in the downtown core
- Need to communicate the economic advantage of investing in Downtown
- Downtown is the epicenter of transit in San Antonio
- UTSA Downtown & the west Downtown area have enormous potential

Next Steps

The next Planning Team Meeting will take place in the summer of 2019 following release of the draft plan in June.

If you have questions about the Downtown planning project, please contact Project Manager Jacob Floyd, City of San Antonio Planning Department.

Email: jacob.floyd@sanantonio.gov Phone: (210) 207-8318

Meeting summaries and presentation will be available on the project website:

<https://downtown.sacompplan.com>

Figure 1. Wall Graphic Poster

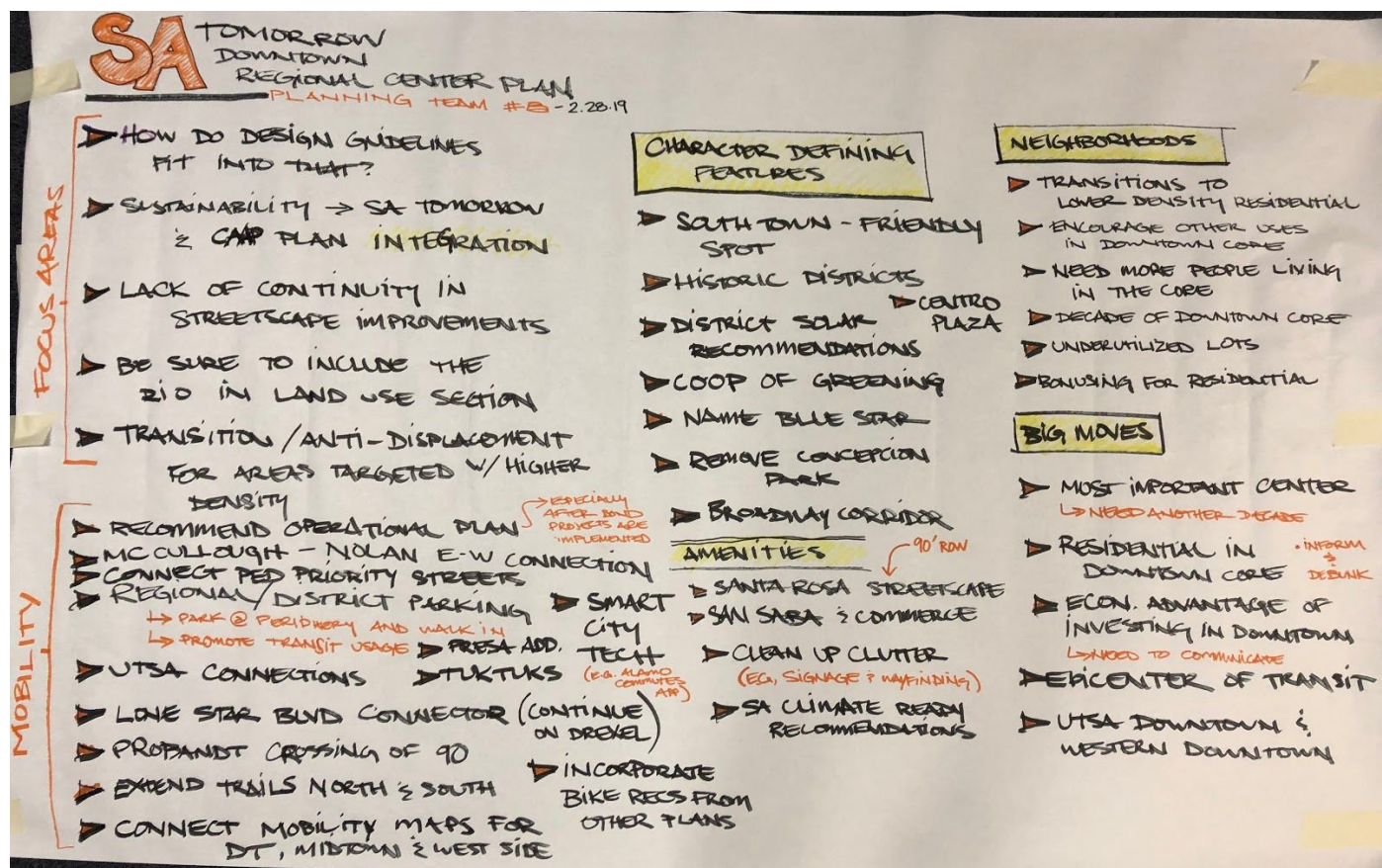


Figure 2. Mobility Framework Markup

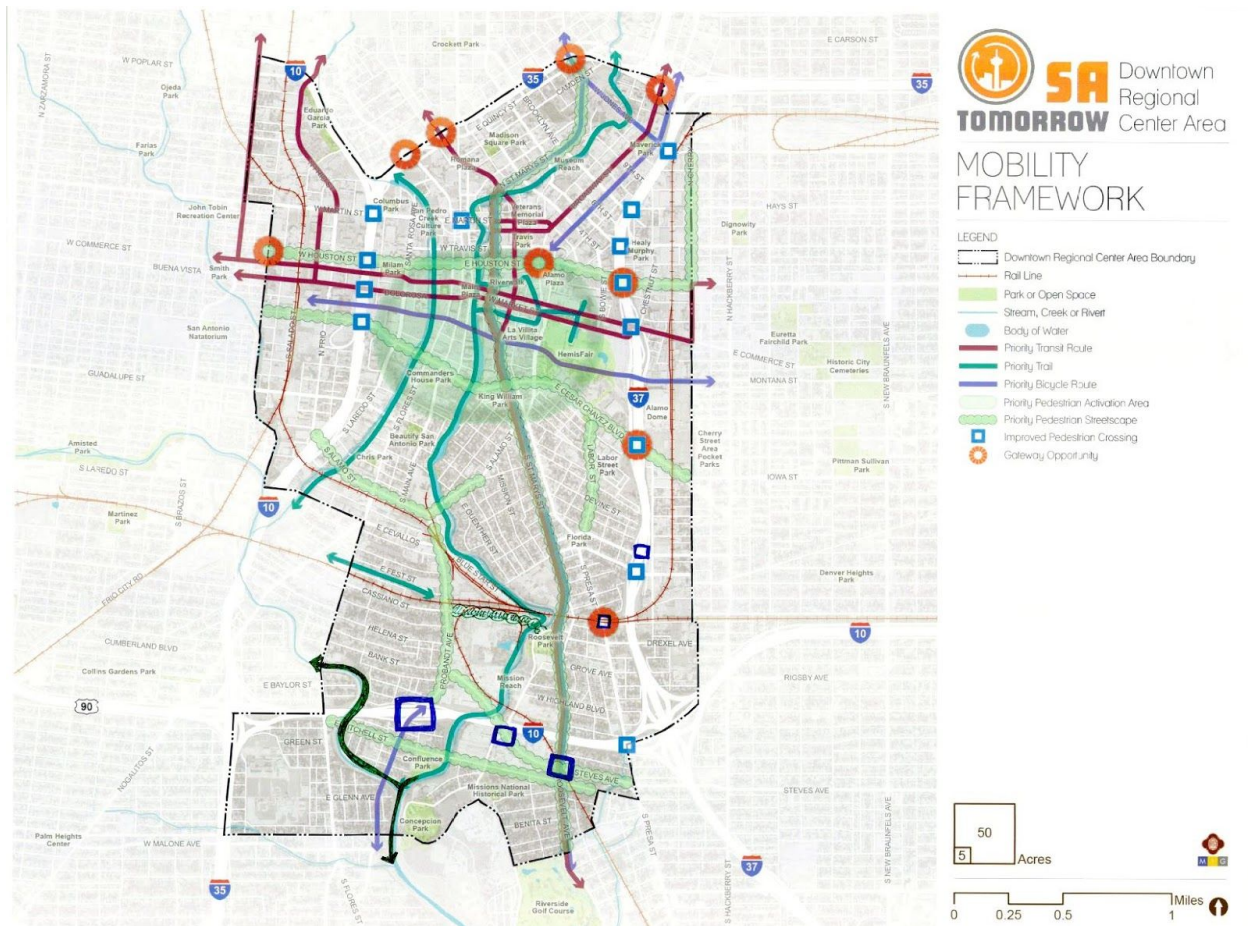


Figure 3. Mobility Framework Markup

