

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Midtown Community Meeting #2
Date: November 15, 2017
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Location: San Antonio College Loftin Student Center

MEETING OVERVIEW

The City of San Antonio Planning Department hosted the second Midtown Area Plan Community Meeting with the following main objectives:

- Provide information on the Midtown Area planning process; and
- Obtain public input to inform the Midtown Area Plan draft policies and recommendations.

Approximately 22 stakeholders attended the meeting to offer their ideas and perspectives. Community input from this meeting, along with additional feedback from the Midtown Planning Team, intercept events, and technical information, will be used to revise the vision, goals, and draft plan framework map and to draft several elements of the Midtown Area Plan.

Meeting Format

The meeting consisted of an open house gallery of activities that provided information and invited attendees to share their perspectives and priorities with the Planning Department. Spanish translators were available and food was also provided. The meeting activities and results are described below.

Presentation

The pre-recorded audio PowerPoint presentation introduced the SA Tomorrow Area Planning program, the process for creating areas plans, the scope of area plans, opportunities for public involvement, and the format of the night's meeting.

Resources and General Information

A table was provided with copies of the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, other past plans, and printed materials on SA Tomorrow Area Planning and Midtown Plan Area.

Department of Arts and Culture

City of San Antonio Department of Arts and Culture staff hosted an interactive activity to discuss potential State of Texas cultural area designations that overlap portions of Midtown.

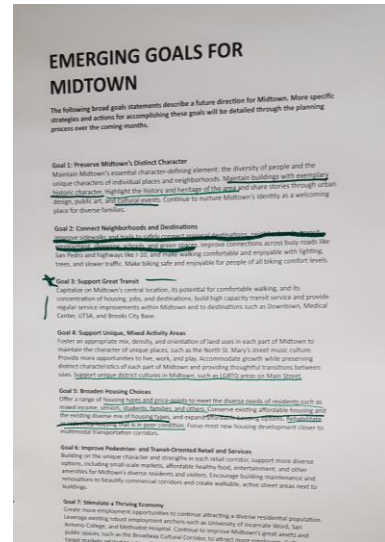


Midtown Community Meeting #2 Summary

Community Vision

The draft Midtown Area vision and goals were displayed on the wall for participants to review and write comments upon with markers.

Result: One participant indicated in several ways that automobile convenience should be emphasized more. Another participant noted that a theatre district would be a logical outcome of “Goal 1: Preserve Midtown’s Distinct Character” and “Goal 11: Grow Unique Destinations.” Participants identified several goals that they particularly identified with or supported.



Mobility: System Priorities

The draft mobility framework was displayed on the wall with associated photos of the framework’s primary transportation corridors. Participants were invited to assign a mode (bike, bus, pedestrian) priority to each of the corridors.

Result:

Corridor	Priority Indicated by Participants
Cypress	Transit
Cincinnati - Ashby - Josephine	Pedestrian, bike
Fredericksburg	Bike
Colorado	
San Pedro	Transit, pedestrian
Main	
McCullough	Transit
St. Mary’s	Transit, Pedestrian
Broadway	Transit, bike
Ave. B	Pedestrian, bike
Neighborhoods	Pedestrian, bicycle



Mobility: Right of Way Allocation

Participants were invited to experiment with allocating right of way to alternative transportation modes and street elements in a constrained street environment, and then suggest a Midtown Area street that they thought their resulting streetscape might be applicable to.

Result: Rather than following the prompt to choose one mode as the goal for designing streetscapes, participants in each case identified multiple modes as their priorities. One participant emphasized the point, writing “Complete Street!” on their ROW Card. Broadway was the focus for three of the seven streetscapes created by attendees. Fredericksburg Road, Main Street, and Brahan were the focus of the other three.



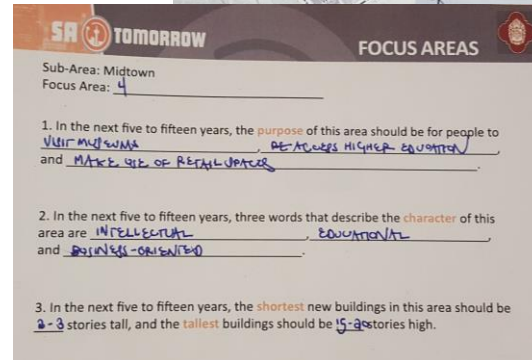
Midtown Community Meeting #2 Summary

Focus Areas and Mixed Use Corridors

A map and photographs of the focus areas and mixed use corridors were displayed on the wall. The Planning Team’s comments on the intended future purpose, character, and building heights for each area were also displayed on the wall. Participants were invited to write and discuss their intentions for the future purpose, character, and building heights for each of the draft focus areas and mixed use corridors.



Result: Thirteen focus area cards were completed, introducing new concepts for the purpose and character of focus areas, and pushing the range of conceivable building heights that should be considered.



Focus Area	#1 (see reference map above)	#2	#3	#4
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and culture district Recreation, exercise, community Gather Live, work, play Learn about the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBTQ community gathering, shopping Medical services No low income housing Places for millennials and students Entertainment, open space, recreation Live, work, play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse Plan Team’s purpose for Focus Areas 2 and 3 Restaurants, apartments, businesses, grocery Gather, listen to music, shop Live, work, play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn, recreate, connect Broadway Cultural Corridor Live, work, shop Visit museums Access higher education and offices Use retail spaces Live, work, play
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts District anchored by the theatre in San Pedro Springs Park Walkable, bikable, active, Unique Healthy Green Beautiful Peaceful, relaxing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Entrepreneurial Green Include parklets Revitalized, energetic, dynamic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse Plan Team’s purpose for Focus Areas 2 and 3 Include parklets Respectful to peaceful heritage of the area Preserve heritage tree near River Walk and Josephine Hipstery, alternative, artistic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intellectual-, education-, and business-oriented Clean High-quality landscape Quiet
Building Heights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One to two Three Five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One to four Ten Twelve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Two Three Four Five 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Three to fifteen Twenty Twenty-five



Midtown Community Meeting #2 Summary

Housing

Participants were invited to review information on area demographic and economic characteristics, area housing and transportation costs, and a comparison of area incomes to area dwelling rental costs. Participants were then invited to review images of a range of dwelling types, and identify which types of dwellings would be appropriate in neighborhoods and which would be appropriate in mixed use corridors and focus areas.

Result: Duplexes, triplexes, four-plexes, bungalow courts, and townhouses were indicated as appropriate for neighborhoods depending on the circumstances. The multiplex and live/work options were not supported in neighborhoods. On mixed use corridors and in focus areas, the live/work, multiplex, and townhouse options were indicated as most appropriate, although some other housing types were also supported.



Neighborhood Action Strategies

Participants were invited to provide information specific to their individual neighborhood on positive characteristics, challenges, and problems. They were also invited to suggest a special community event, program, or project that would improve or bring out the best in their neighborhood.

Result: One participant completed a neighborhood action strategies card regarding Westfort Alliance (see adjacent image).

SA TOMORROW
The plan will address common themes and connections between neighborhoods, however it will have a section for each neighborhood's unique local issues and priorities. Your input will help us work with your neighborhood to create these sections.

WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD ARE YOU WRITING ABOUT? Westfort

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? We are a cohesive neighborhood - neighbors care about each other

WHAT ARE CHALLENGES OR PROBLEMS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD? Fort Sam exiting and entering traffic off of Cunningham

CAN YOU IMAGINE A SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT, PROGRAM, OR PROJECT THAT WOULD MAKE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BETTER OR BRING OUT THE BEST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
We have neighborhood night out we do ice cream socials and caroling at Christmases - I wish we could have a community garden



Midtown Community Meeting #2 Summary

NEXT STEPS

The City Planning Department will use public input from Community Meeting #2, along with input generated from intercepts, focus groups, interviews, and the Midtown Planning Team, to develop recommended policies for the Midtown Area Plan. The third Community Meeting will be held in 2018. Objectives for this meeting:

- Review draft plan recommendations;
- Obtain public feedback on draft plan recommendations; and
- Provide more information on how the Midtown Plan is being created and further opportunities to get involved.

If you have questions about the Midtown planning project, please contact Project Manager Garrett Phillips, City of San Antonio Planning Department. Email: garrett.phillips@sanantonio.gov Phone: (210) 207-5441

