

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: Brooks Area Regional Center Open House
Date: December 6th, 2018
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Location: University of the Incarnate Word – School of Osteopathic Medicine
7615 Kennedy Hill Drive, San Antonio, TX 78235

MEETING OVERVIEW

The City of San Antonio Planning Department and the District 3 Council Office hosted an open house with the following objectives:

- Provide information on the Brooks Area Regional Center planning process; and
- Obtain public input to inform the Brooks Area Regional Center Plan draft plan content.

Approximately 30 stakeholders attended the open house to offer their ideas and perspectives. Community input from this meeting, along with additional feedback from the Brooks Area Planning Team, public input via the project website, intercept events, and technical review will be used to revise the draft plan.

Meeting Format

The meeting consisted of a poster gallery that provided information on each section of the draft Brooks Area Regional Center Plan and invited attendees to share their perspectives and priorities with the Planning Department. Comments were collected on post it notes on boards by each station. Spanish interpreters were available and food was also provided. The meeting activities and results are described below.

Opening Remarks

District 3 Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran welcomed participants to the Brooks Area Regional Center Community Open House and expressed her support for SA Tomorrow and completion of the Regional Center Plan.



Draft Plan Sections

A summary of each draft Plan section is provided below. In cases where comments were received from participants, they are listed (as written) below the summary in italics.

Introduction, Process, Existing Conditions, Vision and Goals

Participants were introduced to the study area geography, a timeline of the process, the existing conditions, and the vision and goals that will be implemented through the plan.

- *No comments were collected.*

Plan Framework and Focus Areas

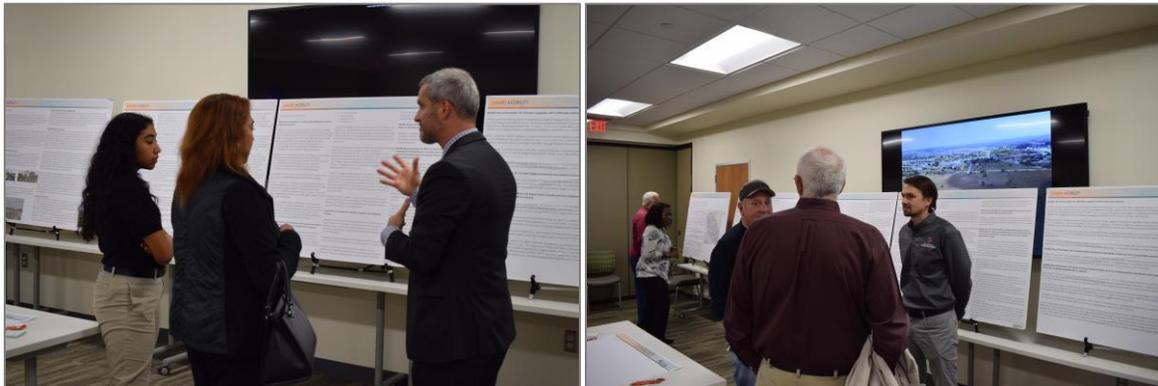
The Plan Framework and Focus Area boards were located at the same station due to the interrelatedness of the two topics. The Plan Framework Diagram displays the key framework elements for focus areas and corridors, mobility, and amenities and infrastructure. The Focus Area diagram showed the key areas most suited for growth and change, specific visions for each area, and the overall recommendations for all focus areas.

- *Focus on street connectivity, walkable blocks! No new frontage roads (Focus area 5)*
- *Traffic solutions – vehicle, bicycle, pedestrians, and transit.*
- *Better lighting.*
- *Focus on what happens when buildings are built. Abandoned buildings.*

Mobility

The Mobility station outlined the community needs identified through the planning process as well as draft recommendations for public comment. The second board displayed the mobility framework map recommendations as well as recommended areas for priority pedestrian safety, bicycle routes, and trail connections.

- *No comments were collected.*



Amenities and Infrastructure

At the Amenities and Infrastructure station, participants reviewed draft recommendations and strategies and then reviewed the amenities and infrastructure framework map that illustrated priority improvements and opportunities identified in the planning process, such as priority parks, trails and open space near the State Hospital Creek and Salado Creeks, arts and cultural amenities along Presa Street and New Braunfels Avenue, and community amenities for older adults, a dog park, and more outdoor gathering space.

- *South New Braunfels connection to Loop 410 needs to be highlighted.*
- *No new frontage roads on I-37. They're ugly and create more traffic. Development should be in*



communities, not freeways.

Land Use

The Land Use station consisted of 3 boards: one to describe the general land use patterns of the Brooks Area Regional Center, one to describe the proposed recommendations for land use in the area, and one to display the proposed future land use map and strategies to accomplish the recommendations.

- *Need for service commercial use; cleaner, barber shop, small grocery store. Make a mini city so residents can walk in neighborhood.*
- *Creating walkable blocks is important! Lots of parks/open space, and streets that connect are important.*
- *Not seeing any additional park/open space on this map.*
- *A need for a neighborhood commercial area. For example, a location for a Barnes and Nobles, a Books-A-Million. Also, a location for a Hobby Lobby or Michael's.*



Economic Development

At the Economic Development station, participants learned about the current economic development conditions as well as target and opportunity industries identified for the Brooks area.

- *With more innovation and jobs = need for more schools. Who besides the residents will pay for schools if target businesses don't pay taxes for x number of years?*
- *I would like to have more information as to what type of targeted job training initiatives y'all have in mind. It would be great to have a type of specialized campus for adult students to learn new skills/trades to include healthcare training, IT, etc.*
- *When can we expect to get the roadside and railroad closed up between Military and Southcross on S. Presa. It looks bad. How did we get World Heritage with this mess so close to the Missions?*

Catalytic Projects

- The two catalytic projects chosen by the planning team were displayed as “current and future” photos and digital renderings on a large poster for the public to view. The two sites are the San Antonio State Hospital at S. Presa Street, and the intersection of Goliad Road and Hot Wells Boulevard. *Project #1 – can the creek be restored to a natural wooded area? People are drawn to water, this could be a huge asset, similar to other greenways in town. City blocks of walkable length are important. Create mostly thru-streets to give people transportation options, and create community feel.*
- *Please make sure to include Hot wells Mission Reach Neighborhood Association in discussions regarding State Hospital land development.*





Housing

The Housing boards provided information on the existing conditions, challenges, and recommendations and strategies for the Brooks Area. Existing challenges such as maintaining opportunity for all household types and incomes, diversity of housing options, and reinvestment in existing neighborhoods can be addressed through homeowner assistance programs, the creation of affordable housing units, and allowing for existing and new residential neighborhoods to accommodate additional housing.

- *Can see impact of voices in the community*

Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities

A brief introduction to the Neighborhood Profiles and Priorities chapter was given and the three profiles for Highland Forest, Highland Hills, and Hot Wells were also displayed. Each profile contains the neighborhood strengths, character, opportunities, challenges, key recommendations from previous planning efforts, and neighborhood priorities.

- Highland Forest
 - *No comments were collected.*
- Highland Hills
 - *Sidewalks all over Highland Hills*
 - *Wide sidewalks*
 - *Wide side-, wide street, bike lane*
- Hot Wells
 - *The voice of our neighbors is apparent in these narratives.*

Overall, 20 comment cards were collected.

NEXT STEPS

The City Planning Department will use public input from the Open House, along with input generated from intercept events, focus groups, interviews, and the Brooks Area Planning Team to refine the draft plan content which is available for public comment before beginning the adoption process.

More information can be found at brooks.sacompplan.com.

If you have questions about the Brooks Area planning project, please contact Project Manager, Jana Punelli, City of San Antonio Planning Department. Email: jana.punelli@sanantonio.gov; Phone: (210) 207-0256

