

General Plan 2020 Focus Group Kick-Off Meetings

Grouped by topic. Includes comments from all groups at both kickoff meetings. Staff comments (as expressed at the meetings) are in italics. Post-meeting clarifying comments are in brackets [].

a) Describe the biggest changes in Round Rock, both positive and negative, over the past five years.

Positives

- City has employed good strategies for attracting new development
- Diversification of tax base – still need more major employers – we have diversified to a “four-legged stool” but need about eight legs.
- Medical and Health care facilities; an increase in both quantity and quality
- Education and retail (new) facilities
- Hospitals and Restaurants
- Shopping opportunities/retail
- Round Rock Premium Outlets, Hospitals, Retail
- Avery family commitment to educational institutions and quality development (northeast campus area)
- Equity/Lifestyle of new population – transplants have brought a lot of equity with them – this had made for good investments within Round Rock
- Population: great place to live

- City vision, forethought, and planning
- Round Rock Government
- Round Rock Police
- New police facility => can accommodate future employment (as we will need a larger force as we grow) and (the high) quality of force.
- School System

- Parks => trails, especially Hairy Man and future trail links, skate park, facilities, Old Settlers,
- Park and Hike and Bike Trail Improvements
- McConico and Baca Center and new City Hall
- Recreation Center
- Parks improvements – Dell Diamond, Old Settlers park and other park upgrades

- Backbone infrastructure => utility and traffic corridors heading in right direction (*the point was that the City knows it is going to grow and is trying to get the infrastructure in place ahead of time to accommodate the growth*)
- DT improvements that are starting, including street improvements and businesses

- Good intersection on 79 at the HEB.
- Design standards of roadways/intersections has improved
- North and Southbound Arterials East of IH 35
- Hesters bypass is a huge plus
- Success of La Frontera roundabout (roundabouts may be a solution for lower volume streets)
- Redbud-79 intersection is improved – now it's inconvenient rather than dangerous. Need a longer left turn lane from 79 to north Redbud.
- Opportunities – roundabouts (collectors & local streets)
- Efforts and improvements on traffic flow
- Roadways, toll roads
- Improved mobility
- Commuter Rail? If appropriate/needed:
 - we don't have CBD that provides demand;
 - maybe a nodal approach => higher education center.

Negatives

- Demand from development tends to precede transportation improvements – plan ahead
- Development planning and road improvements need to be more proactive – locate major developments where they are best for the community – don't leave it to the developers to decide where major developments go and then do a traffic study.
- Regarding the northeast area – be proactive with high-density development nodes – we know what they'll look like – plan the transportation improvements ahead of time – don't leave it to the developers.
- State transportation planning
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- Less on-street cycling and walking opportunities
- More requirements on developers may have more effect on the tax rate. How much can we afford to do with mandates and requirements?
- Create better requirements, which create better and more lasting value
- Davis CA has a lot of requirements and is running into big budget problems

- Need better bus connections to neighboring cities.
- Need an internal bus system to major centers like IKEA and Wal-Mart. [several participants mentioned attempts to bicycle to these places]

- Reliance on Dell and retail as tax base; (should be) more diversified.

- Poor job of managing recycling with population growth. Didn't hear the results of [performance study]. We really need to get ahead of this issue now.
- No convenient recycle program; should be available and free
- Better methods of recycling

- Underutilized retail
- Aging retail
- Aging retail centers
- Vacant spaces; older should be bulldozed and redeveloped
- Older neighborhoods scattered around (there isn't a certain section or "bad" side of town, just neighborhoods here and there in decline)
- Amazed at number of homes with foundation issues; Home value not worth cost to repair
- Not enough high end housing for high-salaried workers (doctors/professionals/executives)
- Not enough affordable housing for service-oriented positions
- Sustainable Community : Not enough flexibility in the Code to provide housing to accommodate different phases of life (life-cycle housing)
- Codes may not be flexible enough
- No one car garages allowed
- Rear loaded garages off of alleys

- Stony Point
- School planning and portables; need to plan for growth
- School district hasn't kept pace with growth
- The cost of new development has been passed on to schools (we need to charge developers for school costs)
- Money and focus has been on new schools so existing schools are deteriorating.

- Increased traffic
- Increased traffic with population growth, especially at 79 and 35 (partly due to growth in Hutto)
- Traffic – takes 20 minutes to get anywhere
- Internal trips as well as commuter trips to Austin are still difficult
- SH 45 makes local travel more difficult (it's a barrier for internal traffic movements)
- There is still insufficient E/W access
- Harder to cross from one side of town to the other (east/west) with the changes in exits due to the toll roads
- Challenge to get across East to West (goes back to the IH35 as a barrier)
- I-35 as East/West divide (in terms of traffic; seems a physical barrier)
- West of Chisholm Trail – there is not enough N/S access
- Chisholm Trail improvement delays

- Not enough attention to circulation on west outside of town
- North to South traffic is better on east than west; west option either Palmer
- Need more North and Southbound Arterials west of IH 35
- North-south traffic on 35 (commute traffic)
- 620 signals are problematic
- 620 from round Rock High School to 35
- Sam Bass Road traffic is worse – there is poor access –no way to go north and south
- The 35-79-Sam Bass intersection is still bad
- 1460 and Old Settlers Road improvement delays
- Round Rock needs timed lights/traffic signals in some areas
- Constant drone of I-35 even with distance and trees; no sound barrier