

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 [].

c) Discuss your thoughts on the issues that were presented today? What specific issues related to what you heard today are of interest to you, and why? Are there other topics that you feel should be addressed in the general plan?

- Housing diversification for college students => this can be delicate issue for location(s) and types. What have other “college towns” done?
- What densities are comfortable?
- Lot size minimums
- Achieving affordable housing
- “Standard” lot size needs to be examined.
- Increased flexibility for encouraging town home development
- Increasing housing options for older population
- Increasing the number of housing types/forms
- Higher quality housing standards
- Wider Lots and less Deep SF
- Vary SF elevations or materials
- Stagger SF front setbacks 20-30'

- Require developers to plant trees in rear yards
- Landscape parkways
- Community Gardens

- Need more community input in meetings/planning efforts (look around, where is everyone?)

- Retail close to neighborhoods – pedestrian access
- Encourage more mixed-use development
- How to accommodate population density?
- What are the expected demographics?
- Require developers to plant trees in rear yards
- Big box development.
- Northeast development
- Down town incentives
- Impact of 130 and what should it look like?
- Look at compatible uses in the NE (i.e. No distribution centers)

- Round rock has done phenomenal job with growth, doing good job with emphasis on sports Mecca theme. But, is there another theme? Can not be everything to everyone (but there should be another identity)
- Need more discussion: Austin is ____, Georgetown is ____, what is Round Rock?
- Need to up with additional identities.

- We are attractive, that's why we came here. We must continue to be attractive to businesses to come here: make it easy to locate or relocate, but balance with requirements.
- Show potential employers the positive of schools and housing
- Yet be careful not to lose tax base (with too many non tax paying developments)
- Economic Diversification => I wished I could work here. New types of business are great but we also need diversification of jobs.

- Traffic is bad; circulation
- Congestion on corridors including that generated from surrounding cities
- Lack of north/south route(s) west of IH-35
- Sam Bass Rd. capacity has not been changed in 20 yrs, even though there have been numerous housing developments & 2+ commercial developments feeding into it
- There is often much congestion on IH-35 for minor incidents because the R.R.P.D. parks patrol cars on entry or exit ramps rather than getting out of the car and directing traffic around the incident so that it keeps moving
- Keep up with street maintenance
- Synchronize lights

- Transportation diversification => getting between nodes and node interface with in neighborhoods.
- Focusing on new nodes and existing nodes (retail/Ikea; Dell Diamond, DT, Educational area in NE; how do we connect them? How do we efficiently get people there and in between? Bike? Transit?
- Regional and local rail
- Connect to mass transit – Cedar Park rail line
- Commuter rail to HEC and rail transit to Austin, San Antonio
- Public transportation for areas (point to point routes, college campuses)
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- Please! No Capital Metro. Yes, a transportation exploratory service but let it come from private sector and be competitive
- Continue hike and bike trail connectivity
- Connect neighborhoods via safe bicycle routes and hike and bike trails (Transportation Master Plan)

- Parks and trails = have facilities that will accommodate future growth so no grid lock, but not taken too far. Need balance, preserve larger areas (but appropriate/reasonable size) for future in new subdivisions.

- Entertainment for all ages
- Cultural opportunities
- Outdoor theater
- Live music venues
- Teen activities
- More public golf courses
- Broaden the focus on outdoor sports to include more people
- Consideration of different events east and west of I-35

- Potential updates to zoning code
- Form based vs. use based land use planning
- Encourage more mixed use development
- Revisit zoning, changes may result in rezoning (Chisholm Trail); what are they now as opposed to yesterday

- Be responsible with water resources
- Incentives for conservation of water
- Use of grey water – water conservation
- Incentives for rain water collection
- Sustainability: solar panels, wind turbines, wastewater reuse
- Species preservation

- Fund public safety
- Revitalize older neighborhoods
- Historic preservation
- Code enforcement
- Home maintenance
- Blighted neighborhoods; old shopping centers
- Two decaying centers in prime locations => most visible is old Albertsons and old HEB- must be developed to highest use.
- Public Services, community facilities/funding mechanism?
- Impacts on quality of life
- Public safety
- Q: How have we done since the last plan? A: *we have much better development standards. Our old requirements allowed development like the old Wal-Mart, the old HEB, the old Alberston's. We need to think of what the city can do to encourage redevelopment/revitalization of older commercial –and residential – areas. We are not just building new stuff anymore – we need to address the older areas.*

- What about water supply? If you have trees you need to keep them alive, but we do need to conserve – how are we going to deal with water issues?
- What about water treatment – it's expensive – is the city working for the best deal with LCRA? (Yes.) We still have to look at gray water. In Austin people are starting to go offline, using cisterns, etc. – do we want to go that way?
- Gray water has a lot of potential
- There is a conflict with water conservation when HOAs can fine you for not watering your lawn.
- There is a lot of difficulty/delay with the City's home repair program. *There is an enormous amount of paperwork associated with using HUD funds – because it's a federal grant and we need to be accountable with taxpayer money. It often costs as much to administer as the projects themselves. We are looking at funding a few large projects instead.*
- We should look at federal stimulus money for conservation efforts. You need city/citizen initiative to do it.
- We need to prepare for the student population. It will be more of a part-time and commuter population than Austin or San Marcos. What type of retail / character do we need in that area?
- More transportation options (bus; bicycle; and train)
- More employment opportunities in Round Rock
- Our well educated population is a plus