



Transportation & Land Use TWG Meeting #1 Summary

March 29, 2018

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

1400 S. Flores - Main Conference Room

Introductions

- Doug Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, introduced representatives from the City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability, CPS Energy, UTSA, and Navigant Consulting. Dan Bradley from Navigant served as facilitator for the meeting. Attendees from the technical working group introduced themselves.

Review of Process & Timeline

- Due to the short timeline, the group might have to meet more often than once a quarter. Meeting frequency will be determined after all technical working groups have met.
- The goal is to have a Paris-compliant GHG target by June 29, 2018 and a draft climate action and adaptation plan by the end of the year.
- Liaisons from the Steering Committee (SC) will be selected by the Mayor to help with communication between the Technical Working Group (TWG) and SC. Encourage the cross-pollination of ideas.
- TWG helps bring perspective of the community but also helps with engagement by communicating to respective organizations or companies about SA Climate Ready. TWG helps amplify the message and process.
- Equity is not just the responsibility of the Climate Equity TWG but a shared responsibility across TWGs and SC. The process should be transparent and fair and engage the most vulnerable communities. Be cognizant that climate impacts differ across demographic groups and understand vulnerabilities that exist in the community. Identify solutions that do not exacerbate equity issues.

SA Climate Ready Vision + Priorities Activity & Feedback Review

- Vision
 - Account for growth in cars, energy usage, and population. How do we prepare?
 - Decrease impervious cover and connect 13 regional centers
 - Ensure that we are connecting with other groups that are also working on similar issues (e.g. TDM Working Group, Regional Center Plans)
 - Want individuals to take more personal responsibility of transportation and land use actions; go back to a more communal path and way of life with a focus on culture and recognizing our ancestors
 - Understand the balance and impacts of building density by building taller versus sprawl
 - Need better public transportation, more multi-modal options, and more EV charging infrastructure; need a cultural and paradigm shift away from single-occupancy vehicles
 - Not enough to just provide transit service to the 13 regional centers; need to serve all areas of the city
 - Need integrated multimodal transportation choices (e.g. train, bus, car share, bike share, etc.); more funding for VIA; need sustainable and reliable energy sources
 - Need a reliable energy system for the people that will be here in the future. If we don't spend the money today, it will be more expensive in the future.
- Priorities
 - Reduce vehicle usage on short trips (2 miles or less); understand where they occur and time of day to be able to address the problem
 - Increase funding for VIA and start identifying resources now
 - Drive success and do things right rather than doing the bare minimum and just checking a box
 - Ensure affordable housing through public-private partnerships. This is an equity issue.

- Consider the link between housing and transit
- Let first/last mile connections be run by private companies and move the transit agency from a coverage model to a frequency model

2014 GHG Inventory Overview & 2016 GHG Inventory Update

- UTSA and Navigant are working on the 2016 inventory update.
- Comments:
 - Prioritize funding based on emissions
 - Employers should be more supportive of measures that reducing employee commuting and move beyond telecommuting
 - Move to a sharing economy and sharing perspective
 - How to incentivize individuals or employers to make better transportation choices?
 - Address the disappearance of affordable housing; need the public and private sector to work together more and offer more incentives to develop affordable housing

GHG Mitigation Strategies: Best Practices

- Reviewed SA Tomorrow Multimodal Transportation Plan and a best practice from Lund, Sweden
- Comments:
 - How to ensure funding for plan updates
 - Is there an app that provides information about the impact of each choice an individual makes?

Future Meeting Schedule & Next Steps

- The proposed meeting time of the 4th Tuesday from 10am-12pm generally worked for the TWG. Meeting schedule will be confirmed later.
- Review documents in the Google Drive, including other TWG folders. Send any best practices to share to lisa.lin@sanantonio.gov.
- Meeting summaries for all TWG and SC meetings will be distributed
- Additional next steps: developing a detailed vision statement and feedback about engagement

Additional Comments

- Often neighborhoods in the past have seemed resistant to change because they did not feel a part of a plan; so the community has to be a partner in the creation of the CAAP
- Need to include sustainability in infrastructure projects that are happening now, as well as those that are being planned
- Do we feel like we are reaching the core of the community? We need to work with community leaders to reach people who need to be reached
- Have we looked at the surrounding communities and the impact of climate change regionally? Is there a budget to reach out to other regions? Also, we need innovative thinking when working with private industries.
- Need more funding for VIA; VIA receives ¼ of the funding that Austin's and Houston's transit agencies have
- Look at best practices from Tyson's Corner in Virginia and Chicago's move from complete streets to sustainable streets
- Other strategies to consider: reducing urban heat island through green roofs, cooler pavement options, and more trees
- Sensors on buses and city vehicles to understand what is happening around the city
- JBSA can participate in other TWGs.
- Need to understand the barriers to an affordable plan
- Need flexibility in updating the scope of work

Public Comment

- There is always a controversy about costs, but there are a number of considerations to balance. (e.g. added up- front cost vs. saving money in the long run); understand the cost-benefit analysis and that there is a cost to doing nothing
- GHG slides/evaluation should be standard for all City projects and presentations; do not miss out on larger comprehensive goals
- Partner with TXDOT and also see if there needs to be enabling legislation at the state level to be able to work on an issue locally; consider vulnerable population; attend the April 7th Mayor's Housing Task Force meeting
- Look at land use as infill around transit corridors and reach out to Development Services
- Are we considering Scope 3 emissions in the GHG inventory?
- Need all the players at the table
- So much overlap with other meetings
- Focus on getting bike paths to transit centers which can serve many people; prioritize public outreach and let people have their say