



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL
CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: City Councilwoman Ivy R. Taylor

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Mike Frisbee, Director of CIMS; John Dugan, Director of Planning and Community Development; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council, Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Robbie Greenblum, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Master Plan Update

DATE: January 22, 2014

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Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda at the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

I respectfully ask for your support in directing City staff to focus the City Master Plan Update around watershed improvements. The purpose of using watersheds as the foundation of our Master Plan Update is to engage the citizenry in planning efforts, create a platform for multiple governmental entities to work together for a common outcome, foster an environment where aspirational ideas and outcomes can be explored, build SA2020's vision in diverse but connected places and to create a more sustainable and diverse environment. In addition, a Master Plan update focused on watershed improvements can support the community in achieving goals and objectives identified in the 2010 Master Plan Framework.

Background

The first Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of San Antonio was approved in 1933 after nearly four years of work. The next planning initiative was in 1951 and multiple efforts to update the plan occurred thereafter. The current Master Plan Policies document was adopted on May 29, 1997.

In 2010 the City Council approved the San Antonio Comprehensive Master Plan Framework, which is a component of the City of San Antonio Comprehensive Master Plan. The purpose of the 2010 Framework is to provide over-arching policy direction for all components of the City Master Plan. The primary objectives of the master plan are to: coordinate private and public investment, minimize conflict between land uses, influence and manage the development of the community, increase both the benefits and cost effectiveness of public investment, predict infrastructure and service needs in advance of demand, and ensure that community facilities are located to best serve the community. The use of watersheds to direct our Comprehensive Master Plan will unify and promote these objectives as well as support goals outlined in the 2010 Master Plan Framework.

The City of San Antonio and our partners have already been successful using this approach.

The River Walk and the San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP) are internationally recognized examples of taking a problem (destructive flooding) and creating positive impacts in many areas: place making, economic development, health and wellness, education, environmental sustainability, and the impact of public art--all SA2020 causes. Through a grassroots process, the 22-member San Antonio River Oversight Committee became SARIP's "citizen planners" and the project's institutional memory and most persistent advocates. Educating and organizing neighborhood associations, community groups, and major property owners based on their relationship to the river rather than special interest silos created a team rather than the competing or opposing groups that can plague major initiatives. At the same time, scientific assessment of existing and projected conditions moved decision making from a political to a fact-based process. This community-based approach was so successful that the San Antonio River Authority/Bexar County duplicated it for the west side creeks initiative. At the same time we at the City of San Antonio have used a dedicated sales tax to build 45 miles of hike and bike trails along the remaining creeks without organized opposition.

Developing our Comprehensive Master Plan around watersheds and modeling plan implementation after The River Walk and SARIP approach will ensure that our efforts are data-driven, include extensive community engagement and integrate a multitude of partners. In addition it will minimize impulsive funding decisions and help to foster a sense of unity and pride around watershed projects in neighborhoods, across political boundaries. ***Adopting a watershed based planning approach with a substantial citizen engagement component will help advance both our planning and community development goals as described in our current Master Plan Framework and through SA 2020.***

Submitted for Council consideration
by:


Councilwoman Iyy R. Taylor, District 2

Supporting Councilmember's' Signatures (4 only)

District No.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
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