

Public Input

The City Council of Alamo Heights made it a top priority to give the entire community an opportunity to be heard in the development of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Beginning with a series of meetings in individual neighborhoods and with business owners in October and November, City staff compiled the initial comments from the fall meetings in preparation for a design workshop/charrette in January.



Design Workshop/Charrette

The Mayor, 93 citizens, 30 design professionals, all 5 City Council members and 8 City staff volunteered their time and gathered on Saturday, January 17 at the Alamo Heights High School Cafeteria to help plan the future of Alamo Heights. The process centered on 10 common themes that were identified at the community neighborhood meetings as topics of particular interest in terms of the physical design of the community and consisted of the following (see Appendix B for summaries and graphics from the design workshop):

1. Great Streets
2. Austin Highway/Mixed-Use Corridor
3. Broadway Corridor
4. Downtown Parking
5. Drainage
6. Economic Development
7. Neighborhood Character
8. Open Space/Green Space
9. Preservation of Resources
10. Walkability/Connectivity

These 10 themes were represented at individual design tables. The facilitators then led the participants in a focused conversation to determine areas of concern and insights. Staff and the design team compiled all of the comments and tweaked the hand-drawn graphics from the charrette before posting the information on the City's website.

Focus group discussions with business and commercial property owners to discuss economic issues and concerns were held following the charrette.

The neighborhoods and business owners had another opportunity to provide their input on the plan draft in a series of meetings in late April and early May 2009.

