

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023 | 6:00 P.M.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet in a regular session on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas. This is an open meeting, open to the public, subject to the Open Meetings Law of the State of Texas, and as required by law, notice is hereby posted providing time, place, date, and agenda thereof. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are provided. Requests for accommodations or interpretative services must be made to the City Secretary 48 hours prior to this meeting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call**2. Pledge of Allegiance****3. Citizen Comment Period – limited to 30 minutes total**

Rules for Citizens' Participation: The Commission welcomes citizen participation and comments at all Commission Meetings. If you speak, you must follow these guidelines:

a) Respect and courtesy:

1. Direct your comments to the entire Commission, not to an individual member, nor to the audience.
2. Show the Commission the same respect that you would like to be shown.
3. End your speaking at the time allotted below.

b) Speaking:

1. First citizen comment period.
 - 1.1. You are required to sign up to speak and you are limited to one 3-minute period.
2. Second citizen comment period.
 - 2.1. You are not required to sign up and you are limited to one 2-minute period.
3. State your name and address before your comments begin.
4. You are only allowed to speak once per topic, unless also speaking during a posted Public Hearing.

NOTE: The Texas Open Meetings Act permits a member of the public or a member of the governmental body to raise a subject that has not been included in the notice for the meeting. However, any discussion of the subject must be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a future meeting and any response to a question posed to the City Council is limited to either a statement of specific factual information or a recitation of existing policy. TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.042.

4. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and action.

- a) Approval of Minutes for June 14, 2023, Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting.
- b) Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop Report.
 1. Receive presentation from Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO).
 2. Discuss and make a recommendation.
- c) Items applicable to the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed at City Council meetings.
- d) Ordinance No. 210-102022 An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Garden Ridge, Texas, adopting board and commission policies and procedures; providing a cumulative and savings clause; providing for severability; and declaring an effective date.
 1. Discuss expiring terms (September 30, 2023) of Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Maloney, Commissioner Crow, and Commissioner Leatherberry.
 2. Make recommendation to City Council for consideration of reappointment.
- e) Future Agenda Items.
 1. Commissioners input on agenda items.
 2. Announce date, time, and location for next meeting (September 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall).



5. **Citizen Comment Period** – limited to 20 minutes total
See “Rules for Citizens’ Participation” under Item 3.

6. **Adjournment**

AGENDA NOTICES:

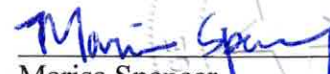
Decorum Required: Any disruptive behavior, including shouting or derogatory statements or comments may be ruled out of order by the Presiding Officer. Continuation of this type of behavior could result in a request by the Presiding Officer that the individual leave the meeting, and if refused, an order of removal.

Action by Council Authorized: The Council may vote or act upon any item within this Agenda. The Council reserves the right to adjourn into closed session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed above, as authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

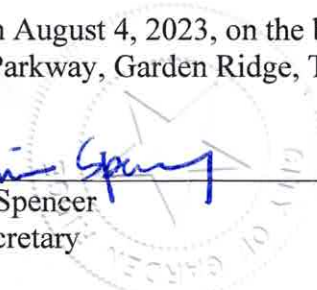
Executive Sessions Authorized: This agenda has been reviewed and approved by the City’s legal counsel and the presence of any subject in any Executive Session portion of the agenda constitutes a written interpretation of Texas Government Code Chapter 551 by legal counsel for the governmental body and constitutes an opinion by the attorney that the items discussed therein may be legally discussed in the closed portion of the meeting considering available opinions of a court of record and opinions of the Texas Attorney General known to the attorney. This provision has been added to this agenda with the intent to meet all elements necessary to satisfy Texas Government Code Chapter 551.144(c) and the meeting is conducted by all participants in reliance on this opinion.

Attendance By Other Elected or Appointed Officials: It is anticipated that members of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees may attend the meeting in numbers that may constitute a quorum of the other city boards, commissions and/or committees. Notice is hereby given that the meeting, to the extent required by law, is also noticed as a meeting of the City Council, other boards, commissions and/or committees of the City, whose members may be in attendance. The members of the boards, commissions and/or committees may participate in discussions on the same items listed on the agenda, which occur at the meeting, but no action will be taken by such in attendance unless such item and action are specifically provided for on an agenda for that board, commission, or committee subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

This is to certify that I, Marisa Spencer, posted this Agenda at 10:00 a.m. on August 4, 2023, on the bulletin board located at the entrance to Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas.



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 | 6:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Karen Diaz
Vice-Chair Kerim Jacaman
Commissioner Dr. Jim Miller
Commissioner Michael Crow
Commissioner Roy Leatherberry
Commissioner Joe Maloney

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Darren Bates

City Staff and City Councilmembers Present:

Nancy Cain, City Administrator
Marisa Spencer, City Secretary
Courtney Billi, Assistant City Secretary/Communications Specialist
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Mayor Robb Erickson
Councilmember Jesús Valdez

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

With a quorum of the Planning and Zoning Commissioners present, Chair Diaz called the regular meeting of the Garden Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, in the City Council Chambers of Garden Ridge City Hall, 9400 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Diaz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizen Comment Period: No one signed up to speak.

4. Business Items

The following items are for discussion, consideration, and action.

a) Approval of Minutes for May 10, 2023, Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Maloney, seconded by Commissioner Leatherberry, to approve the Minutes for May 10, 2023, Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting. The Commission voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

b) Master Development Plan for Eric T. Fischer project, Sinners & Saints, to be located at 19186 FM 2252, composed of a 1.4-acre parcel and a 1.7-acre parcel south of 19295 FM 2252 in Garden Ridge, Texas.

1. Discuss and make a recommendation.

Eric Fischer presented the Master Development Plan for the proposed Sinners & Saints project and addressed questions from Commissioners.

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Leatherberry, seconded by Vice-Chair Jacaman, to recommend to City Council approval of the Master Development Plan for Eric T. Fischer project, Sinners & Saints, to be located at 19186 FM 2252. The Commission voted four (4) for and one (1) opposed (Commissioner Maloney). The motion passed by a vote of 4-1.

c) Items applicable to the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed at City Council meetings.

Chair Diaz provided the Commission with an update on items applicable to the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed at City Council Meetings.

d) Planning and Zoning Commission Duties and Responsibilities.

City Attorney Cynthia Trevino spoke regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission Duties and Responsibilities.

e) Future Agenda Items.

1. Commissioners input on agenda items.

None at this time.

2. Announce date, time, and location for next meeting (July 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall).

Chair Diaz stated the next Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

5. Citizen Comment Period

No one wished to speak.

6. Adjournment

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Maloney, seconded by Commissioner Jacaman, to adjourn. The Commission voted five (5) for and none (0) opposed. The motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. by Chair Diaz.

ATTEST:

Karen Diaz
Chair

Marisa Spencer
City Secretary



JULY 2023

Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop Report



825 South Saint Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78205



www.alamoareampo.org



(210) 227-8651

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Background	3
Study Area	3
Land Use and Civic Amenities	3
Current Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	4
Traffic Counts	4
Community Outreach and Early Engagement.....	5
Flyers and Notices	5
News articles	6
Webpage	6
Crowdsourcing Tool	7
Walk Audit.....	10
Garden Ridge Market Days	13
Walkable Community Workshop	13
Improving Walkability and Bikeability	15
Infrastructure	15
Policy	21
Implementation	22
Reminders	23
Funding Sources	23
Next Steps	26

INTRODUCTION

The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) conducts Active Transportation Planning to support development of an equitable and sustainable transportation system for the Alamo Area. AAMPO recognizes the need to plan for people of all ages and abilities and for all transportation modes. A system designed to accommodate people walking and biking improves safety, not only for these users, but every user of the transportation system.

The Active Transportation Program supports the following AAMPO goals:

- Meet needs of a growing region while advancing alternative modes of transportation and increasing accessibility for all users;
- Facilitate the involvement and participation of communities, agencies, organizations and the general public in the transportation planning process; and
- Maintain a focus on safety.

The Walkable Community Workshop (WCW) component, of the Active Transportation Program, is designed to engage residents in the planning process for their neighborhoods. It is modeled after a national program that encourages communities to design a comprehensive and coordinated system that is safe and welcoming for people walking and biking. Community leaders and residents who identify a need within a specific geographic area may apply for a Walkable Community Workshop. Workshops are intended to:

- Educate participants about the benefits of active transportation;
- Assist communities in identifying policy and infrastructure improvements that support walking and bicycling; and
- Provide the community with an opportunity for two-way communication with local transportation agency staff.

Benefits of Walkability

Neighborhoods and streets that are safe and welcoming for people walking have many broader benefits for the community. They can:

- Increase safety for all users
- Provide transportation choices
- Increase quality of life
- Support economic development
- Improve health by providing greater opportunities for exercise
- Improve air quality by reducing the need to drive alone
- Conserve energy and natural resources
- Reduce automobile ownership costs
- Provide opportunities for community engagement

Walkable communities typically have sidewalks, trails, shared use paths, pedestrian amenities (such as benches), sufficient lighting, shade, and good access to destinations.

BACKGROUND

The City of Garden Ridge submitted an application to AAMPO to organize a Walkable Community Workshop for its residents in January 2023. This report details the process taken to gather public input on barriers to walkability within their community and outlines infrastructure improvements that can be implemented to mitigate for those barriers.

STUDY AREA

The City of Garden Ridge is located northeast of downtown San Antonio, TX in Comal County. The Study Area, which is smaller than the city limits, is bound by the cities of Selma and Schertz to the south, the local quarry to the northeast, unincorporated Comal County to the north, and the unincorporated community of Bracken to the southwest (see Figure 1).

LAND USE AND CIVIC AMENITIES

The study area is primarily zoned as Residential Estates (RE) with minimum lot areas of 3/4 acre. The community is served by a public water supply, private sewerage facilities, and is located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Municipal and civic facilities including the community and events center, elementary school, and city hall can be found on the northeast side of FM 3009. Paul Davis Park, 20685 Grass Creek Road, is embedded in a residential area and only accessible from the main entrance, limiting its accessibility and connectivity. Davenport High School is located on the southwest side of FM 3009, and is inaccessible from the rest of the city due to the development of a gated community. FM 3009, FM 2252, Bat Cave Road, and Schoenthal Road act as barriers for pedestrians and cyclists coming from the neighborhoods to parks, civic amenities, schools, and shopping. Further planned residential development just northwest of Garden Ridge city limits along Bat

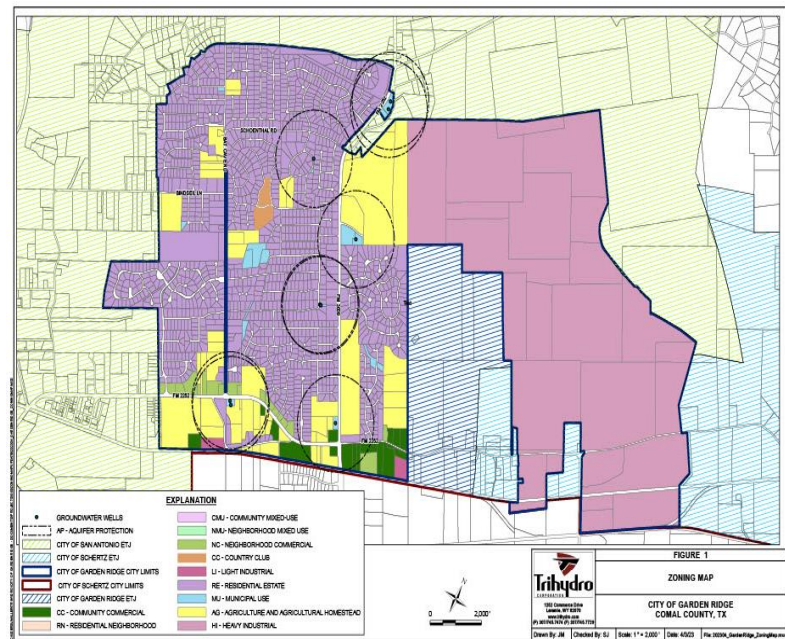


Figure 1: City of Garden Ridge Zoning Map

Cave Road will increase vehicular traffic along the corridor, with potential impacts to Schoenthal Road.

CURRENT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

Throughout the city of Garden Ridge, there is a general lack of sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities. Cyclists and pedestrians traverse neighborhood streets and wide shoulders along major thoroughfares with no protection or separation from automobiles. The Federal Highway Administration recommends sidewalks or side paths. Although, wide shoulders along rural highways are acceptable with a 6-foot wide minimum, entire neighborhoods with no sidewalks or paths are not good practice, according to FHWA.¹

TRAFFIC COUNTS

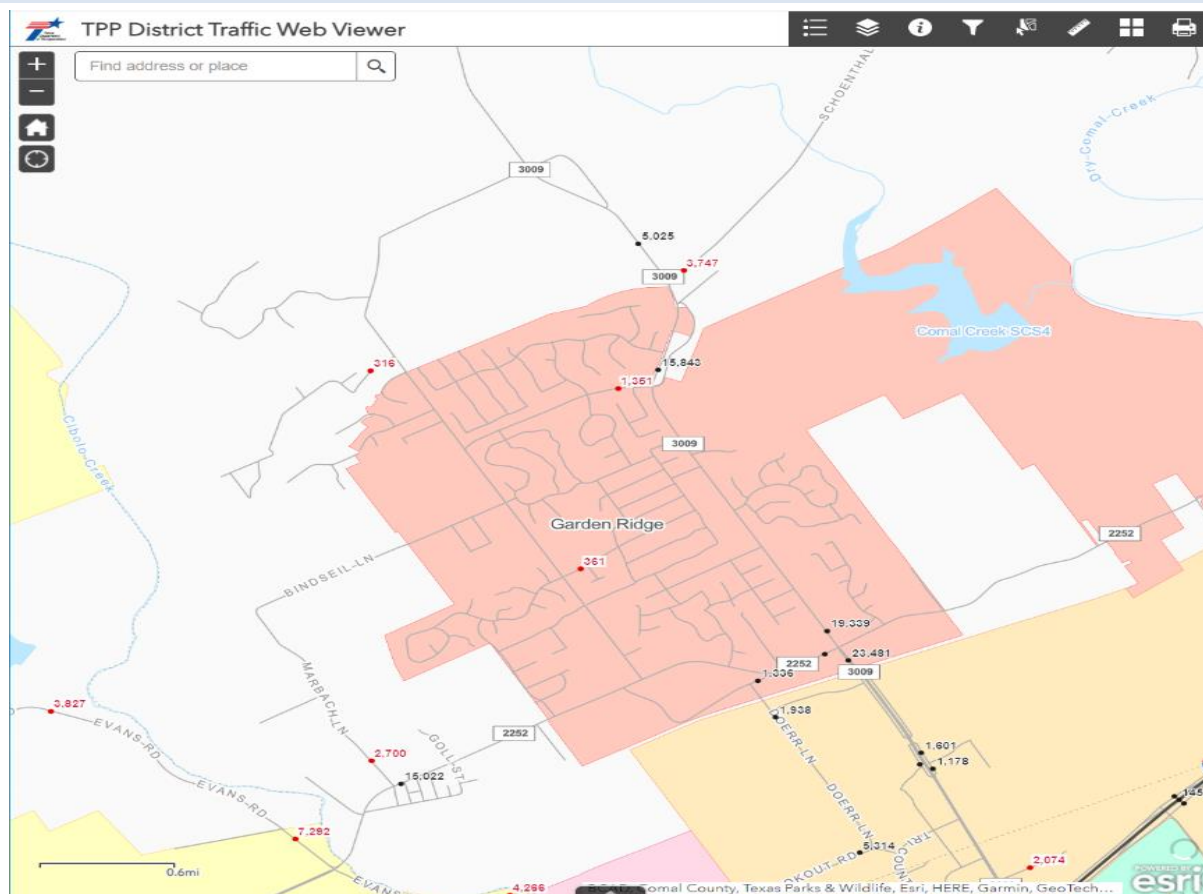


Figure 2: TxDOT Average Daily Traffic (2021)

¹ Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System (2013). Retrieved May 2023, from http://www.pedbikesafe.org/pedsafe/resources_guidelines_sidewalkwalkways.cfm.

Traffic counts within Garden Ridge neighborhoods are low, with higher numbers along streets that connect to FM 3009. Neighborhood streets may be comfortable to walk on without sidewalks as a result of the low amount of traffic, but vehicle speeds and the lack of traffic-calming (speed reducing) measures play a more significant role in terms of pedestrian safety and comfort. FM 3009 and FM 2252 have the highest traffic counts within the city, particularly at their intersection. Automobile traffic is primarily using these corridors as through-streets, with high traffic counts along FM 3009 going towards Davenport High School and truck traffic to the adjacent quarry along FM 2252. As a result of the traffic counts along these thoroughfares, and speed limits of 45 miles per hour or more along these corridors, suggested treatments for pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure will mostly be off-street. These infrastructure improvements will require a physical barrier for the upmost safety, with street crossings and intersections requiring a greater significance of infrastructure to separate transportation modes. Areas within the neighborhoods with lower traffic counts and speed limits will require less physical infrastructure (e.g., restriping, buffers, etc.) as the context allows for greater transportation mode cooperation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EARLY ENGAGEMENT

FLYERS AND NOTICES

Leading up to the workshop, AAMPO and City of Garden Ridge staff shared materials to encourage participation in the initiative. AAMPO created a webpage, e-mail notices for distribution by local schools, water bill inserts, and flyers (see Appendix B) advertising the

AAMPO

WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Join the Alamo Area MPO and the City of Garden Ridge to identify infrastructure improvements that encourage walking or bicycling to restaurants, schools, businesses and parks in the City of Garden Ridge. We want to know your transportation concerns.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Community & Events Center
9500 Municipal Pkwy | Garden Ridge, TX 78260

Provide your input online through June 18, 2023
www.alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge

For more information, contact Sonia Jiménez, AAMPO's Deputy (210) 227-8651 or at jimenez@alamoareampo.org.

GARDEN RIDGE

WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

SCAN ME

The City of Garden Ridge wants your input on how the area can become more walkable. Please join the City and the Alamo Area MPO at Garden Ridge Market Days on June 10, 2023 from 9 AM - 2:30 PM to provide your comments and ideas related to walkability in the area.

Input will be accepted online through Sunday, June 18, 2023.

alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge **AAMPO**

Figure 3: Outreach Materials

Walkable Community Workshop. AAMPO also participated in the Garden Ridge Market Days, mapping community concerns on the crowdsourcing map, showing others how to map their input on their own, and advertised the upcoming workshop. While the crowdsourcing tool could be accessed on one's own time, the Market Days and Walkable Community Workshop at the Garden Ridge Community and Event Center heightens awareness of the effort and allows the City to gain a diverse perspective from area residents as well as visitors.

NEWS ARTICLES

The City of Garden Ridge notified local news media of the walkability events and the workshop. The article, shown in Figure 4, advertised the online crowdsourcing map as well as participation at the Garden Ridge Market Days and the Walkable Community Workshop.

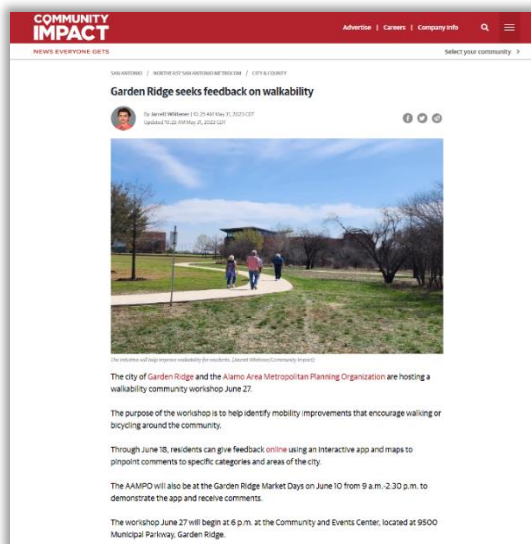


Figure 4: Local News Article

WEBPAGE



Figure 5: AAMPO-Hosted Webpage

A landing page for the City of Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop was created by AAMPO to help the community understand how to provide input, advertise the schedule, provide information about Complete Streets, and showcase access to the Walkable Community Workshop Crowdsourcing Tool. The crowdsourcing tool was listed under “Provide Your Input Online”.

CROWDSOURCING TOOL

The crowdsourcing tool was featured on AAMPO’s website alongside information about engagement opportunities. The digital map was split into five sections: Aesthetics and Geography, Bicycle Facilities, Intersection Safety, Pedestrian Facilities, and Recommended Mobility Improvements. In total, over fifty online entries were received including requests for



Figure 7: Online Crowdsourcing Tool

improvements with lighting, connectivity, and more. All entries and comments have been taken into account within the table below.

City of Garden Ridge Walkability/Bikeability Concerns AAMPO Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop Crowdsourcing Tool Results	
Area of Interest	Concern
Pedestrian Facilities	Lack of comfortable pedestrian facilities, reducing connectivity along: • FM 2252 • FM 3009 • Bat Cave Road • Schoenthal Rd • Municipal Parkway
	Disjointed street network reduces connectivity around Paul Davis Park, potential off-street facilities at these locations could make walking more comfortable: • Adjacent to Bat Cave Rd • Adjacent to FM 3009 • Along high-voltage electric right-of-way • Along creek beds throughout the city
	Lack of off-street walking and biking infrastructure. One resident noted that these facilities should be paved and smooth. Most residents that suggested building pedestrian facilities wanted off-street infrastructure as opposed to sidewalks or wide shoulders.
Driver Behavior	Drivers cut corners at intersections within the neighborhoods, increasing vehicular speeds and the possibility for a collision.
	Aggressive drivers were reported, particularly along FM 3009, FM 2252, Schoenthal Rd, and Bat Cave Rd.
	Development north of Garden Ridge may increase vehicular traffic along: • Bat Cave Rd • Schoenthal Rd • FM 3009
	Speed limits of 30mph within the neighborhoods are too high.
	Speed limit of 45mph on FM 2252 near the quarry is too high.
	Traffic calming requested on neighborhood entrance streets.
Crossing and Intersection Safety	Wide, high-speed roadways with limited safe crossing points pose risks to pedestrians. Safe crossings are needed at: • FM 3009 and Municipal Parkway • FM 3009 and Schoenthal Rd

City of Garden Ridge Walkability/Bikeability Concerns AAMPO Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop Crowdsourcing Tool Results	
	• FM 3009 and Davenport High School • FM 3009 and Trophy Oaks Dr • FM 2252 and Hickory Bend • FM 2252 and Regency Run • Bat Cave Rd and Garden Arbor • Bat Cave Rd and Bindseil Ln • Bat Cave Rd and Blazing Star Trail • Bat Cave Rd and Garden Ridge Dr • Schoenthal Rd and Deer Canyon Many residents requested a pedestrian bridge connecting Garden Ridge Elementary and city amenities across FM 3009. Additional pedestrian safety measures could be taken at FM 3009 and FM 2252 neighborhood entrances. Traffic lights at: • Major intersections along FM 3009 • Bat Cave Rd and FM 2252
Bicycle Facilities	Bicycle facilities requested on: • FM 2252 • FM 3009 • Bat Cave Rd • Schoenthal Rd • Tonkawa Pass • Numerous potential off-street trailways
Micromobility Facilities	Interest on the possibility of providing infrastructure, such as off-street trailways that accommodate for golf carts.
Lighting	No street lighting reduces visibility, particularly along: • FM 2252 • FM 3009 • Bat Cave Rd • Schoenthal Rd
Comfort	Trees lining roadways could help reduce speeds, create a physical barrier, and provide shade for pedestrian facilities. Traffic calming throughout neighborhoods would dramatically improve pedestrian safety and comfort.

City of Garden Ridge Walkability/Bikeability Concerns AAMPO Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop Crowdsourcing Tool Results	
	Resident noted a lack of dog waste facilities.
Parks & Recreation	Lack of connections to Paul Davis Park
	No trails or connections to regional trailways
	No wayfinding signage to Paul Davis Park
	New recreational area desired at Bat Cave Rd and Bindseil Ln to reduce distances to parks
	New public open space between Garden Ridge Estates Neighborhood and Arrowhead Estates Neighborhood
	New recreational area desired near Tonkawa Pass and FM 2252
Connectivity	Desired connections to Garden Ridge Elementary School from: • Regency Run • Trophy Oaks Dr • Schneider Ln • Sumac Cir
	Desired connections to Davenport High School from: • Cinnabar Ct • Schoenthal Rd • Neighborhoods along Bat Cave Rd
	Desired connections to Paul Davis Park from: • Wild Wind Park • Glen Cove • Creekview Oaks • Georg Ranch Neighborhood • The Woods of Garden Ridge Neighborhood

WALK AUDIT

A walk audit was conducted in which AAMPO and City of Garden Ridge staff traveled segments of the area as a pedestrian and noted barriers within the experience. The walk audit routes were chosen based on the stated goals of the City of Garden Ridge councilmembers and staff and within existing transportation corridors. Routes surrounding the park and other green



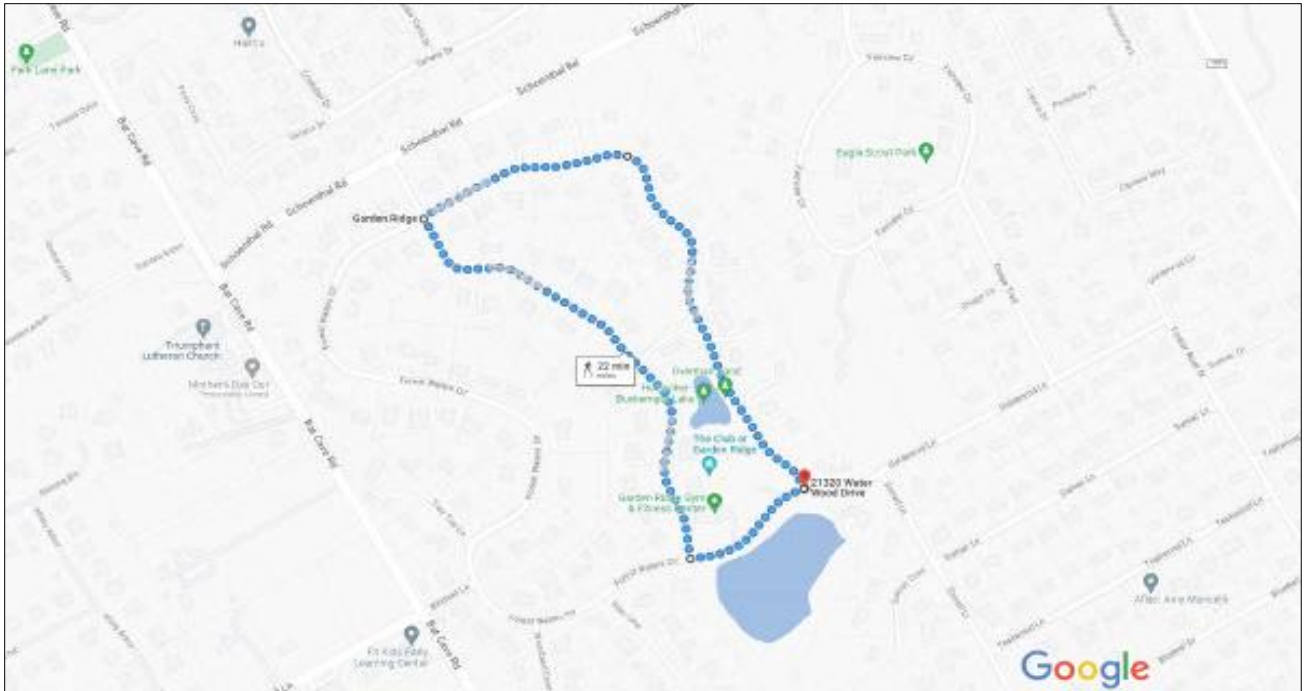


Figure 9: Walk Audit Route 2 - Country Club

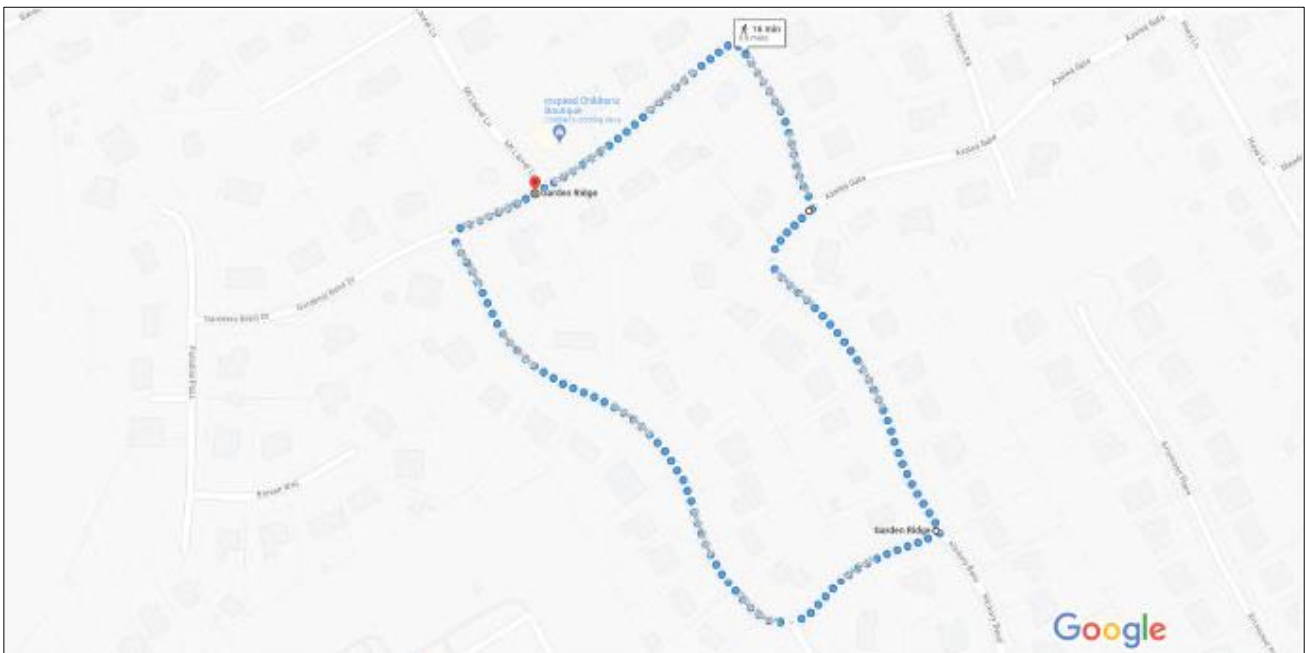


Figure 10: Walk Audit 3 - Neighborhood

GARDEN RIDGE MARKET DAYS

A walk-up “workshop” was held at Garden Ridge Market Days at Northeast Bible Church on Saturday June 10, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Participants were given the opportunity to talk with AAMPO staff about the benefits of a walkable and bikeable community, along with recording their areas of concerns/needed improvement via the online crowdsourcing map. Overall, the Market Day effort yielded over a dozen in-person comments, which have been included within the crowdsourcing tool results table.



Source: <https://gardenridgemarketdays.com/>

WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The workshop was held at the Jay F. Feibelman Garden Ridge Community and Event Center located at 9400 Municipal Pkwy, Garden Ridge, TX 78266 on June 27, 2023 at 6pm. The workshop agenda consisted of summary background information and goals for the workshop, a presentation on walkability and AAMPO’s Walkable Community Program with highlights from the crowdsourcing tool, followed by the workshop session with facilitated table groups and report outs of priority concerns, and closed with next steps. For more information, see Appendix A. Approximately 25 participants attended the event, in addition to AAMPO and Great Springs Project staff and City of Garden Ridge elected officials and other personnel.



The workshop session had attendees split into three groups – one to cover half of the WCW study area, another to cover the other half of the area, and a third to review and comment on Great Springs Project plans. The two groups covering the Garden Ridge WCW study areas provided table facilitators with input on areas that need improvement, desired connectivity, and overall topics of comfort and safety as it relates to the community. In addition to identifying issues in the neighborhood, workshop attendees were asked to work in groups and prioritize their most pressing concerns. A list of priority concerns is shown in Table 1 below.



Table 1: City of Garden Ridge Priority Concerns

Priority Rank	Issue
1	Lack of walk and bike connections to Garden Ridge Elementary
2	Lack of walk and bike facilities along and across Bat Cave Rd and Schoenthal Rd
3	Lack of walk and bike connections to Paul Davis Park
4	Lack of walk and bike connections to Davenport High School
5	Safe crossings across FM 3009 and FM 2252

IMPROVING WALKABILITY AND BIKEABILITY

Based on the desire to improve pedestrian access and safety within neighborhoods and throughout the community, the following infrastructure improvements may be appropriate.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Off-Street Multi-Use Paths/Trails

Multi-use paths and trails would provide people with space to travel completely separated from motor vehicles. These trails have the potential to connect disjointed street networks with pedestrian and bicycle access while decreasing travel distance. Trails often serve active transportation modes most effectively in areas with low population density and/or high automobile traffic. Multi-use paths should be well connected to neighborhood amenities and be fully accessible to all users, including those in wheelchairs.

Paths can be easily aligned in a developed area by way of utility and stormwater easements. Paths adjacent to a high-traffic or high-speed roadway should include trees, street lighting, a curb, or guard-rails, and a physical element separating the path from automobile traffic. Small-scale lighting may be considered for trails intended for commuting, such as trails connecting to schools and area destinations. Trails crossing streets should be well marked and may require traffic calming elements and street lighting. Trails would increase pedestrian and bicyclist access, safety, and comfort to local destinations while maintaining a small town feel in the City of Garden Ridge.



Trails provide an off-street option for pedestrians and cyclists to travel without conflicts with automobiles.

Sidewalks and Walkways

Sidewalks and walkways provide people with space to travel within the public right-of-way that is separated from motor vehicles by a vertical curb. Wider sidewalks should be installed near schools, parks, civic amenities, or anywhere high concentrations of pedestrians exist. Sidewalks should be continuous along both sides of a street and sidewalks should be fully accessible to all pedestrians, including those in wheelchairs. Sidewalks along high traffic roads should be set back from the curb and may include trees and lighting to increase comfort and safety. Sidewalks or walkways would increase pedestrian comfort in the City of Garden Ridge, particularly on Municipal Parkway or to connect cul-de-sacs to the larger area within a neighborhood.



Sidewalks provide a safe space to travel on foot.

Marked Crosswalks

Marked crosswalks indicate optimal or preferred locations for pedestrians to cross and help delineate where vehicles are to stop so as not to interfere with the pedestrian crossing. Marked crosswalks can increase visibility of people walking and encourage yielding among people driving. Marked crosswalks can be especially useful at transit stops or other pedestrian generators located on long blocks, where the distance between existing marked crosswalks is greater than 1,000 feet. This treatment would be useful along residential streets to nearby parks, at trail crossings, and other civic destinations.



Marked crosswalks indicate a preferred crossing location and increase pedestrian visibility.

Crossing Islands/Pedestrian Refuge Islands

Crossing islands (also known as pedestrian refuge islands) are raised islands placed in the center of the street at intersections or mid-block. Crossing islands allow pedestrians to deal with only one direction of traffic at a time by enabling them to stop halfway across the street and wait for an adequate gap in traffic before crossing the second half of the street. They are especially effective at reducing crashes at uncontrolled locations on busy roadways where gaps are difficult to find, particularly for slower pedestrians, such as pedestrians with disabilities, older pedestrians, and children. Roads with high-speed or multi-lane traffic should include a pedestrian hybrid beacon (see below), in addition to a pedestrian refuge island, to increase vehicular awareness. Crossing islands would increase pedestrian comfort when crossing wide roadways such as FM 2252 or FM 3009.



Crossing islands provide refuge for people crossing the street and enable them to cross a single direction of traffic at a time.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons

Pedestrian hybrid beacons allow for additional safety when crossing a street mid-block, particularly on roads with high-speed or multi-lane traffic. This overhead stoplight activates only when a pedestrian is present and pushes the cross button. Pedestrian signal indicators tell the pedestrian when the stop-lights are activated for automobile traffic and the amount of time in seconds that is available to safely cross, in addition to the “DO NOT WALK” phase. As vehicles approach shortly after the cross button is pushed, the lights will turn yellow, similar to a standard traffic light.



Pedestrian hybrid beacons offer clear guidance on when pedestrians may cross the street at a mid-block crosswalk and raise awareness to automobile traffic

A solid red signal is the same as a standard red-light, in which the walk-sign will enable for the pedestrian to cross. Shortly thereafter, the solid red signal transitions into a flashing red sign, indicating that the crosswalk should be treated by vehicular traffic as a stop sign and wait for pedestrians to finish crossing before continuing through the intersection, one-vehicle per lane at a time. After the flashing-red phase is complete, the light will simply turn off, allowing automobile traffic to continue through the crosswalk uninterrupted. Pedestrian hybrid beacons

would increase pedestrian comfort and safety when crossing roads such as FM 3009 and FM 2252.

Pedestrian Signal Indicators

Pedestrian signal indicators ensure pedestrians will know when the signal phasing allows them to cross and when they should not be crossing. Countdown pedestrian signals inform pedestrians of the amount of time in seconds that is available to safely cross during the flashing “DO NOT WALK” phase. This device is particularly useful at crosswalks with long crossing distances. The walk phase should allocate enough time for pedestrians of all abilities to safely cross the roadway. In cases with a high number of pedestrians crossing or along roads with a long crossing distance, a leading pedestrian interval (allowing pedestrians a three-second walk phase head start prior to the automobile lane lights turning green) may help increase pedestrian safety and driver awareness. Additional pedestrian signals along FM 3009 and FM 2252 would facilitate safer crossing of major streets.



Pedestrian crossing signals provide clear guidance on when people walking may cross the street.

Chicanes

Chicanes are a traffic calming measure that divert the path of travel along a roadway, causing vehicles to slow in order to make lateral shifts and/or pass through a narrowed section of roadway. Chicanes can take the form of curb extensions, center islands, or staggered on-street parking. On low-speed and low-volume residential streets, chicanes are often mid-block curb extensions used to slow traffic by introducing lateral shifts to both sides of the roadway, at times resulting in one-lane of travel. They are most effective on long, straight neighborhood streets with little to no truck traffic.



Chicanes compel people driving to slow down on neighborhood streets.

Mini-Traffic Circles

Mini-traffic circles are circular islands installed in the center of appropriate residential street intersections to reduce traffic speeds and collisions. Traffic circles require people driving to slow down while allowing continuous traffic flow. They can be installed in lieu of signals or stop signs, especially in residential areas where streets make sudden directional changes (also known as modified T-intersections). Mini-traffic circles can be an effective traffic calming measure where cut-through or speeding traffic is common. This treatment could be a useful tool for reducing speeding within residential areas. Traffic circles, compared to signalized intersections, require less maintenance and because they do not rely on electricity or overhead structures to be effective, they are considered resilient in the face of extreme conditions (wind, power failure, etc.).



Mini traffic circles help slow vehicular traffic on residential streets.

Choker/Pinch Point

Chokers, or pinch points, can be an effective traffic calming measure where speeding traffic is common. They are curb extensions that reduce the width of the road to a narrow two-lane channel or to one lane. They are installed mid-block of an appropriate residential street to reduce traffic speeds. Pinch points require people driving to slow down as the travel lane's width decreases, some larger vehicles may even need to yield the right-of-way to ensure their vehicle has adequate space to continue. They can be installed in conjunction with marked crosswalks along pedestrian routes to reduce vehicular speeds and decrease the crossing distance for pedestrians. This treatment could be a useful tool for traffic calming in the City of Garden Ridge.



Chokers serve to reduce the width of travel lanes, slowing down vehicular traffic. They can be used in conjunction with marked crosswalks to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians.

Raised Crosswalks

Raised crosswalks are highly effective at reducing vehicle speeds and increasing driver awareness. The pedestrian crossing is generally flat and at the same height as the sidewalk, whereas a raised crosswalk ramps up. In that way, the raised crosswalk acts as a speed table, ensuring pedestrians are given priority on the crossing. This treatment is especially effective in areas of low to medium car traffic or on right-turn slip-lanes, connecting the main sidewalk to the pedestrian island. When used on a right-turn slip lane, it increases attention by drivers, who may be looking to their left when merging into traffic, inadvertently ignoring the pedestrian crossing. Raised crosswalks may be most effective along the FM 3009 and FM 2252 corridors.



Raised crosswalks raise awareness and lower vehicular speeds on the approach to a crosswalk, particularly in areas like slip lanes.

Curb Radius Reduction

In areas with high curb radii, vehicles are allowed to turn at higher speeds, similar in function to a slip-lane. This gives less time for vehicles to react to the surrounding environment, encourages higher-speed travel, and increases the crossing distance for pedestrians. Reducing the curb radius is highly effective in residential areas or corridors where greater pedestrian traffic is expected. It forces drivers to take extra caution on turns, giving more time for driver attention and decreases crossing distances for pedestrians. It is important to understand the type of traffic that frequents the intersection as high-volume truck traffic may require greater turning radii. Curb radius reductions would be beneficial to much of the residential areas throughout Garden Ridge.



Reducing the curb radius, even in places without sidewalks, reduces the crossing distance for pedestrians and requires vehicles take the turn at slower speeds.

POLICY

Mixed-Use Zoning

Mixed-use zoning is a type of zoning that, in smaller town contexts, can be used to develop a town center or along major corridors to encourage denser development conducive to walking, cycling, and a high density of businesses and amenities. When used over a larger area, mixed-use development is highly effective at reducing car dependency and creating a wider range of viable transportation options. Overall, increasing the population density of an area will increase the economic viability for commercial development, decreasing the distance between areas of interest. Generally, mixed-use districts are between 2-5 stories, but single-story developments can also be effective in town centers. Larger lot sizes, setbacks, and Euclidean zoning (separation of land uses by type—residential, commercial, retail, industrial, etc.), as currently seen within the City of Garden Ridge, increase the distance between destinations and results in an area being less walkable.² This policy change is overseen by the City of Garden Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission and may require City Council involvement.



Mixed use developments are conducive to a “town center” built environment and increases population density around amenities, decreasing walking distances.

Reducing Speed Limits

Vehicular speed is one of the most significant factors in relation to the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. As vehicle speed increases, its momentum increases exponentially, especially along roadways with a large volume of truck traffic. Reducing speed limits are most effective in areas near amenities such as schools, parks, libraries, or around areas with pedestrian crosswalks. According to the Federal Highway Administration, a vehicle traveling at 30 mph has a 45% chance of killing or seriously injuring a pedestrian, while at



Reducing speed limits around areas of interest allows pedestrians and bicyclists to traverse the areas more safely.

² Guide to Community Preventive Services. *Physical Activity: Built Environment Approaches Combining Transportation System Interventions with Land Use and Environmental Design*. (2017) <https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/physical-activity-built-environment-approaches.html#print>.

20 mph this change drops to 5%³. Reducing speed limits may be most successful in areas with high pedestrian activity, but roads with a wide right-of-way may see non-compliant drivers as the built environment is conducive to higher speeds. This policy change may require City Council involvement, partnership with state and county agencies, and a number of Homeowner's Associations to ensure consistency throughout the city. Currently, cities within Texas may not reduce speed limits below 25 mph without conducting a traffic study. However, current legislation is aiming to reduce the barrier to 20 mph.

IMPLEMENTATION

Arguably the most difficult part of a plan is implementation. Variables outside of the municipality's control can make projects difficult to implement. Developing a coalition of local and regional organizations may help convince agencies to support and sponsor Garden Ridge's efforts. If the priorities of a road outside of Garden Ridge's jurisdiction do not align with the City's priorities, it may be best to look into off-street infrastructure options. In addition, the creation of implementation committees has generally resulted in greater efforts to complete plans in a timely manner. On top of an implementation committee, Garden Ridge may wish to identify pedestrian corridors, prioritizing infrastructure improvements to these areas first. In finding priority areas, the City would be giving safer pedestrian access in a timelier manner to corridors where the greatest number of people would benefit. Overall, implementing changes to the transportation system will require support from the Texas Department of Transportation, local officials, community organizations, businesses, property owners, residents, and the public.

³ Pilkington P. (2000). Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph in urban areas. Child deaths and injuries would be decreased. *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*, 320(7243), 1160.
<https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.320.7243.1160>

REMINDERS



A combination of infrastructure improvements may serve to increase safety and comfort for pedestrians (and cyclists). The image above is a raised, mid-block crosswalk with protected bicycle intersection and pinch point for vehicular traffic.

A combination of infrastructure and policy improvements can serve to further the goals of Garden Ridge’s effort to increase walkability, specifically when connecting residents to amenities and trail crossings. It is pertinent that all tools are considered and that improvements are based on a **priority of safety** when looking to increase walkability in an area. On through-streets, particularly on roads not owned by the City of Garden Ridge, it is important to work with the governing entity to express the interests of the area.

FUNDING SOURCES

Funding is not guaranteed for projects identified through the Walkable Community Workshop Program. Rather, the workshop is intended to bring together community members, transportation agency representatives, and other stakeholders to identify and prioritize transportation needs. This report is a way for the community to speak with one voice to assist decision makers in identifying transportation solutions specific to the local community.

Leveraging various funding sources can be helpful in getting desired projects implemented. Some examples of various funding sources are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list, and some funding sources may only be relevant for certain types of projects. Local government representatives and staff are encouraged to work with community members and other

stakeholders to identify funding opportunities for projects that address the needs listed in this report.

The funding sources listed below involve a competitive process for funding awards, either through a project call or notice of funding opportunity for grants. It is important to note that AAMPO, and others, may allow for additional points to be earned during the competitive process, as a result of planning for improvements listed in this report. The City is encouraged to reach out to these entities and request being added to their information distribution database.

Potential Project Funding Sources		
Source	Program	Description
Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)	CMAQ is a reimbursable federal funding program for construction costs focused on reducing congestion and improving air quality to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Examples of eligible projects include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit improvements, congestion reduction, traffic flow improvements, and freight. All applicable federal rules apply. For more information, contact aampo@alamoareampo.org .
	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)	The STBG is AAMPO's broadest federal funding program. Projects are selected on a competitive basis. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, improvements to major roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transportation projects. STBG is a reimbursable program for construction costs and all applicable federal rules apply. For more information, contact aampo@alamoareampo.org .
	Transportation Alternatives	Transportation Alternatives is a federal funding program that is specifically for bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects. This is a reimbursable program for construction costs and all applicable federal rules apply. For more information, contact aampo@alamoareampo.org .
Texas Department of Transportation	District Discretionary Funds	These funds address miscellaneous projects selected at the TxDOT San Antonio District's discretion. Projects must be on the state highway system. For more information, visit http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/district/san-antonio.html .
	Transportation Alternatives	Transportation Alternatives is a federal funding program that is specifically for bicycle and pedestrian

		projects. This is a reimbursable program for construction costs and all applicable federal rules apply. TxDOT administers TA funds to projects independently from AAMPO. More information available at: https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/bicycle-pedestrian-local-federal-funding-programs.html.
Texas Parks and Wildlife	Local Parks Grants	The Local Park Grant Program consists of 5 individual programs that assist local units of government with the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas. The program provides 50% matching grants on a reimbursement basis to sites that are dedicated as parkland. More information available at: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/about-local-parks-grants.
	Recreational Trails Grants	Administered under the approval of Federal Highway Administration, this federally funded program reimburses cities up to 80% of project cost. Awards are limited to \$300,000 for non-motorized trails or \$600,000 for motorized trail grants. More information available at: https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants.
United States Department of Transportation	Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program (SS4A)	These funds support initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Counties, cities, transit agencies, MPOs, and Tribal governments are eligible to apply. More information available at: https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A
	Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant (RAISE)	A competitive grant process for numerous transportation projects, including highway, bridge, or other road projects. The federal cost share may not exceed 80% of total project cost. Minimum rural awards for capital projects are \$1 million; minimum urban awards for capital projects are \$5 million. More information available at: https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants.

NEXT STEPS

AAMPO will provide copies of this report to the elected officials and appropriate departments within the City of Garden Ridge, Comal County, Alamo Area Council of Governments, and Texas Department of Transportation. This report will also be available on AAMPO's website at <https://www.alamoareampo.org/ActiveTransportation/>.

Here are some steps community members can take after the Walkable Community Workshop to build momentum and get desired results:

- Share the report. Talk to neighbors, community leaders, and other stakeholders who could not attend the workshop.
- Identify community and individual actions that can help move ideas toward implementation.
- Use this report as a resource. It includes contact information for agencies and individuals who can answer questions and provide guidance.
- Partner with local groups on events that promote safety and accessibility for non-motorized transportation.
- Advocate for policy changes that support safe and walkable communities.
- Work with the City to include provisions for non-motorized facilities in future plans and projects.
- Attend government meetings to express interest in improving walking and biking infrastructure.
- Contact your local elected representatives and officials to voice specific concerns in your area.

Improving a neighborhood takes time, funding, and dedication, and planning for the future is an ever-changing process. Planning for a safe walking and biking environment contributes to a healthy and vibrant community. AAMPO supports the City of Garden Ridge in its efforts to improve walkability, safety, and quality of life for its residents.

For more information on the Walkable Community Workshop Program, contact Matthew Moreno at (210) 230-6931 or moreno@alamoareampo.org.

APPENDIX A

GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP AGENDA JUNE 27, 2023



City of Garden Ridge
Walkable Community Workshop
Garden Ridge Community and Event Center
9400 Municipal Pkwy, San Antonio, TX 78266
Tuesday, June 27, 2023
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM



Background

This workshop seeks to identify transportation and land-use concerns in the area that pose a barrier to the community being pedestrian and cyclist friendly. It is intended to help prepare the City of Garden Ridge for future pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements by identifying and prioritizing the areas of need and explore potential solutions. Any potential solutions will require further study and engineering and will be based on need and feasibility.

Goals for Today's Workshop

- Inform the public on what walkability is, how it is beneficial, and why Garden Ridge is participating in this workshop.
- Map walkability and bikeability concerns using AAMPO's online crowdsourcing tool findings and physical maps.
- Identify community priority areas for improvements and explore potential solutions.

Agenda

- 6:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions – City of Garden Ridge and Alamo Area MPO
- City of Garden Ridge Master Land Use Plan and Goals for Walkability – City of Garden Ridge
- What is AAMPO, Walkability, and the Walkable Community Program? – Matthew Moreno, AAMPO
- Mapping Concerns and Ideas Within the Workshop – Matthew Moreno, AAMPO
- 6:30 p.m.** Facilitated Group Discussion and Mapping
- 7:30 p.m.** Group Reports
- 7:50 p.m.** Next Steps and Closing Remarks

For more information, please visit <https://alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/>, use the QR code, or contact Matthew Moreno at (210) 230-6931 or moreno@alamoareampo.org



APPENDIX B

GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, FLYER 2023

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE

WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



The City of Garden Ridge and the Alamo Area MPO (AAMPO) are hosting a Walkable Community Workshop to help identify mobility improvements that encourage walking or bicycling to schools, businesses, and recreation. This workshop brings the community and partner agencies together to discuss barriers to walking and biking and developing concepts to overcome these barriers.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Community and Events Center

9500 Municipal Pkwy

Garden Ridge, TX 78266



AAMPO has developed an interactive online app to gather input for active transportation mobility improvements. **AAMPO will also be at Garden Ridge Market Days on June 10, 2023 from 9 AM – 2:30 PM** demonstrating the app and capturing comments related to walkability in the area.

We encourage you to visit www.alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/. Input will be accepted online through Sunday, June 18, 2023 and at the workshop.

For more information, contact Sonia Jiménez at (210) 668-3614 or jimenez@alamoareampo.org.

APPENDIX C

GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP, ALAMO AREA MPO
PRESENTATION
JUNE 27, 2023



GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

JUNE 27, 2023

Matthew Moreno, Multimodal Transportation Planner

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

OVERVIEW

What is the AAMPO?

What is Walkability?

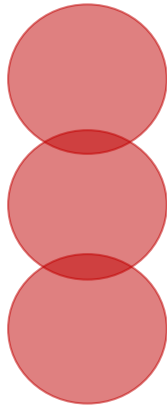
What is a Walkable Community Workshop?

What is Next?

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

We Plan to Keep you Moving



Cooperative: No single agency has responsibility for the entire transportation system

Comprehensive: Encompassing all transportation modes, as well as local land use/economic development plans

Continuous: Ongoing planning to address short and long term transportation vision and needs

MPO PLANS AND DOCUMENTS



Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

AAMPO staff budget and smaller regional planning studies over a two year timeframe



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Short-range planning document highlighting funded transportation projects/programs within a four-year timeframe



Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

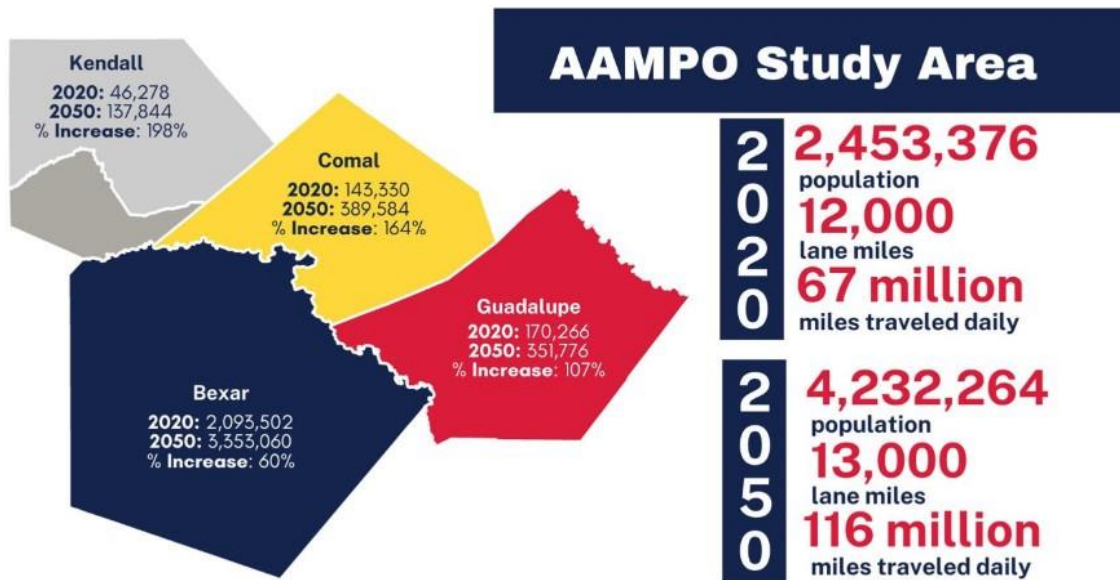
Long-range planning document outlining future goals, strategies, and transportation projects for 20-25 years



Transportation Conformity Document (TCD)

Evaluates future transportation projects to ensure they cause no further harm to air quality; approved through a significant interagency consultation process.

Study Area



www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

WHAT IS WALKABILITY?



Walkability is a measure of how friendly an area is to pedestrians.

Walkable communities are pedestrian-friendly and where local trips can be made without a car.

WHY IS WALKABILITY IMPORTANT?

- Exercise
- Cleaner air
- Cleaner water
- Reduced automobile costs
- Energy and natural resource conservation
- Social engagement
- Economic development
- Increased safety
- Transportation choices/equity
- Greater quality of life



THE DEMAND FOR WALKABILITY

56.9%

of respondents say **connectivity**

and **walkability**

are **needed**

CHARACTERISTICS OF WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

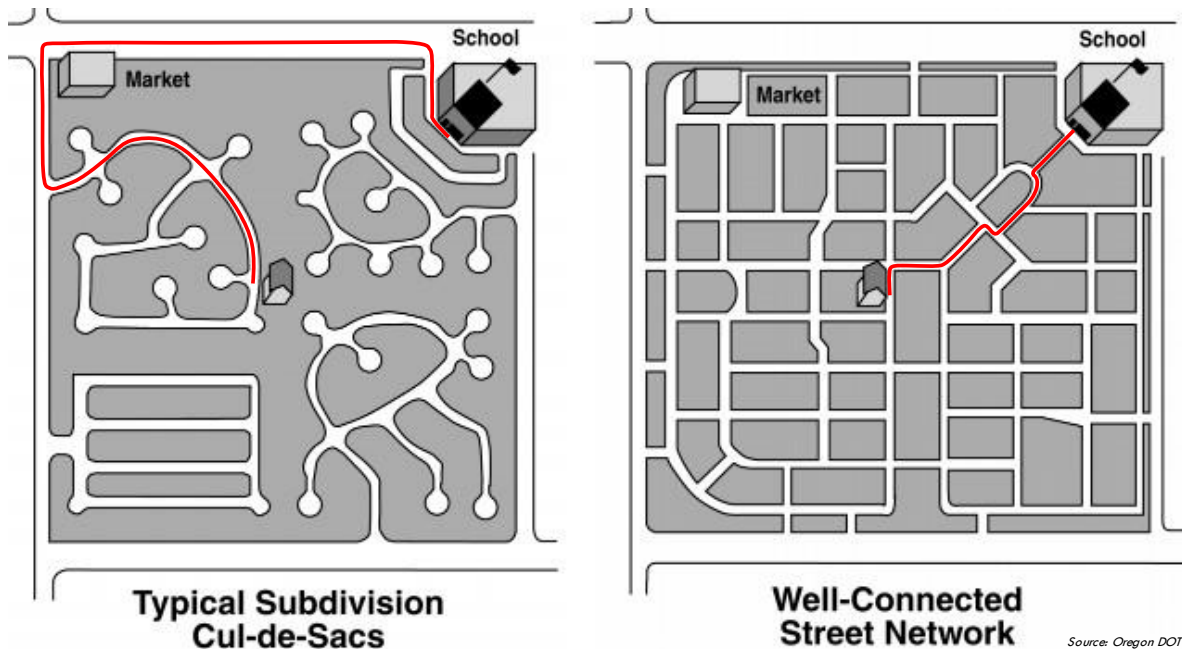
Multimodal transportation system

A variety of modes are available, and connections exist between modes.



CHARACTERISTICS OF WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

Street and sidewalk connectivity



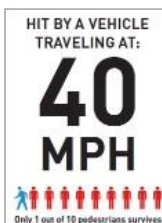
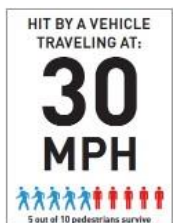
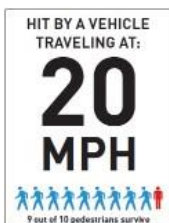
CHARACTERISTICS OF WALKABLE COMMUNITIES



Connectivity
Safety
Comfort

WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS - SAFETY

VEHICLE SPEED IS THE **GREATEST FACTOR** IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



SIGHTLINES AND REACTION
TIME DECREASE AS SPEED
INCREASES



CHECK YOUR LOCAL PLANS

City of Garden Ridge Master Land Use Plan 2018



<https://www.ci.gardenridge.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/2471/GardenRidgeMasterLandUsePlan>



www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Walkable Community Workshops help plan for active transportation modes (walking/biking/micromobility).

Discuss barriers to walking and biking in the area.

Documenting these issues in an AAMPO study raises awareness. It is not a guarantee that projects will be completed.

If a project from this workshop were to be submitted for AAMPO funding, it would receive extra points.

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE WCW

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The City of Garden Ridge and the Alamo Area MPO (AAMPO) are hosting a Walkable Community Workshop to help identify mobility improvements that encourage walking or bicycling to schools, businesses, and recreation. This workshop brings the community and partner agencies together to discuss barriers to walking and biking and developing concepts to overcome these barriers.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Community and Events Center
9500 Municipal Pkwy
Garden Ridge, TX 78266

 SCAN ME

AAMPO has developed an interactive online app to gather input for active transportation mobility improvements. AAMPO will also be at Garden Ridge Market Days on June 10, 2023 from 9 AM - 2:30 PM demonstrating the app and capturing comments related to walkability in the area.

We encourage you to visit www.alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/. Input will be accepted online through Sunday, June 18, 2023 and at the workshop.

For more information, contact Sonia Jimenez at (214) 658-2614 or sonia.jimenez@alamoareampo.org.



www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

MAPPING YOUR CONCERNS

Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop

Aesthetics and Geography

Bicycle Facilities

Intersection Safety

Pedestrian Facilities

Recommendations

Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop

Pedestrian Facilities

To create a location marker
 Click the map to define the location.
 111-0330, San Antonio, TX

Select from the drop down menu. Tell us more below.

Pedestrian Facilities

Select...

Intersecting streets, dead-end streets, etc.

Click the map to define the location.

Submit...

Email (to receive meeting notices and updates)

Click Browse button to add photos, or documents from your phone, tablet, or computer.

Browse...

Report it

Cancel

<http://alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/>

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE WCW



www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

NEXT STEPS AFTER WORKSHOP

AAMPO staff will develop workshop report

AAMPO will present findings to Zoning Commission and City Council

AAMPO will submit report to TxDOT and partner agencies

Area leadership works with partner agencies to identify funding for projects

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO

STAY CONNECTED



www.alamoareampo.org



aampo@alamoareampo.org



825 South Saint Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205



www.facebook.com/alamoareampo



www.twitter.com/AlamoAreaMPO



www.youtube.com/thealamoareampo



www.instagram.com/alamoareampo

www.alamoareampo.org

AAMPO



THANK YOU!

Matthew Moreno
AAMPO Multimodal Transportation Planner
moreno@alamoareampo.org
210-230-6931



Garden Ridge Walkable Community Workshop

City of Garden Ridge
Planning and Zoning Commission
August 9, 2023



Agenda

- What is a Walkable Community Workshop (WCW)
- City of Garden Ridge WCW
 - Goals of the GR WCW
 - Walkability / Bikeability Crowdsourcing Map
 - GR Market Days
 - Walk Audit with City of GR Elected Officials and Staff
 - Walkable Community Workshop
 - GR WCW Report
- Next Steps

Walkable Community Workshops

Walkable Community Workshops help plan for active transportation modes (walking/biking/micromobility).

Discuss barriers to walking and biking in the area.

Document issues in an AAMPO study. It is not a guarantee that projects will be completed.

If a project from the workshop report were to be submitted for AAMPO funding, it may receive extra points during the competitive project selection process.

Garden Ridge WCW Engagement

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



The City of Garden Ridge and the Alamo Area MPO (AAMPO) are hosting a Walkable Community Workshop to help identify mobility improvements that encourage walking or bicycling to schools, businesses, and recreation. This workshop brings the community and partner agencies together to discuss barriers to walking and biking and developing concepts to overcome these barriers.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**Community and Events Center
9500 Municipal Pkwy
Garden Ridge, TX 78266**



SCAN ME

AAMPO has developed an interactive online app to gather input for active transportation mobility improvements. AAMPO will also be at Garden Ridge Market Days on June 10, 2023 from 9 AM - 2:30 PM demonstrating the app and capturing comments related to walkability in the area.

We encourage you to visit www.alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/. Input will be accepted online through Sunday, June 18, 2023 and at the workshop.

For more information, contact Sonia Jiménez at (210) 668-3614 or jimenez@alamoareampo.org.

AAMPO

GARDEN RIDGE



City of Garden Ridge
Walkable Community Workshop

Introduction	Objectives	2023.06.02 Walking Audit	2023.06.03 Market Days	2023.06.03 Workshop	Provide Your Input Online	Results & Next Steps	Additional Resources
--------------	------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------

Introduction

Join the City of Garden Ridge and the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) in helping to identify infrastructure improvements in Garden Ridge to encourage walking and bicycling to restaurants, schools, businesses, and parks.

The program brings you together with transportation partner agency staff to discuss transportation issues and concerns in the area that pose a barrier to the community being walkable and bike friendly. You'll be able to input issues involving transportation or allied concerns, like code compliance issues or lighting, in person or online, whichever is more convenient.

Following the public input period for the Walkable Community Workshop (WCW), AAMPO will summarize the WCW results and provide this to elected officials and our transportation partner agencies for planning purposes. The reports can launch a meaningful dialogue between you and your community leaders.

Online input period will close on June 18, 2023.



Communities that are
walkable and bikeable
have many benefits!

AAMPO

we plan to keep you moving!

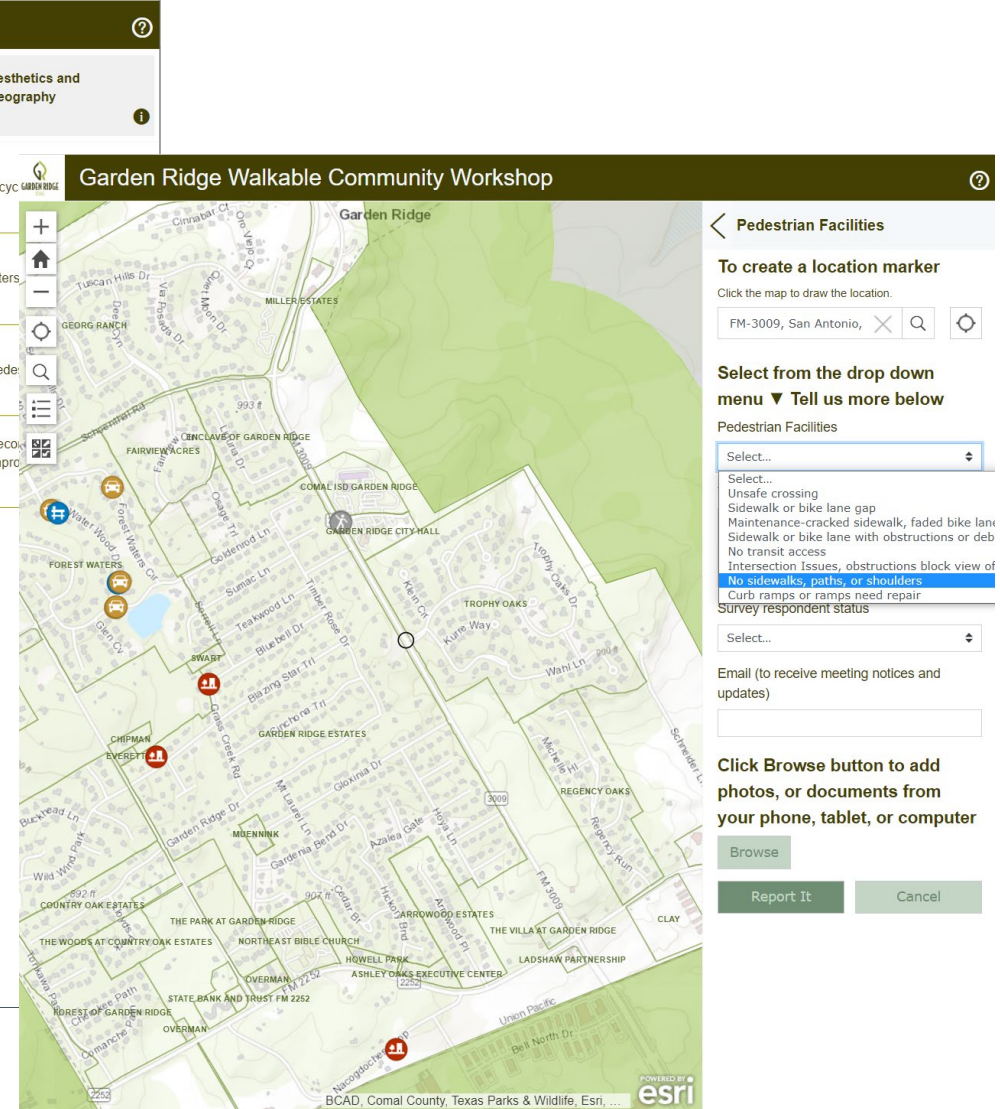


Contact Us

Alamo Area MPO
625 South Saint Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: (210) 222-8633
Fax: (210) 227-9521
Email:
www@alamoareampo.org

Quick Links

- About Committee
- GIS Maps & Data
- Join Our Team
- Meetings & Agendas
- Plans & Programs
- Press Releases & Announcements
- Regional Planning
- TSP 10 & Public Information Requests



<http://alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/>

Market Days

Outreach Goals

- Discuss what makes a community walkable and bikeable
- Receive and log feedback on current walkability and bikeability issues in Garden Ridge area



Walk Audit

Goals

- Assess and log walkability and bikeability issues in different areas around GR
- Have a direct conversation with City of GR elected officials and staff about what are walkability and bikeability issues



Walkable Community Workshop

Goals

- Inform the public on what walkability is, how it is beneficial, and why Garden Ridge is participating in this workshop.
- Map walkability and bikeability concerns using AAMPO's online crowdsourcing tool findings and physical maps.
- Identify community priority areas for improvements and explore potential solutions.



Map Results Highlights

Lack of comfortable pedestrian facilities, reducing connectivity along:

- FM 2252
- FM 3009
- Bat Cave Road
- Schoenthal Rd
- Municipal Parkway

Development north of Garden Ridge may increase vehicular traffic along:

- Bat Cave Rd
- Schoenthal Rd
- FM 3009

New recreational areas are desired at:

- Bat Cave Rd and Bindseil Ln
- Tonkawa Pass and FM 2252

<https://alamoareampo.org/yourmove/gardenridge/>

Desired connections to Garden Ridge Elementary School from:

- Regency Run
- Trophy Oaks Dr
- Schneider Ln
- Sumac Cir

Traffic calming throughout neighborhoods would dramatically improve pedestrian safety and comfort.

Speed limits of 30mph within the neighborhoods are too high.

Workshop Report



Main Topics of GR WCW Report

- **Background of GR WCW Report**
 - Study Area
 - Land Use and Current Facilities
 - Traffic Counts
- **The Workshop**
 - Community Outreach
 - Webpage
 - Crowdsourcing Map
 - Market Days
 - Walk audit
 - List of Concerns
- **Improving Walkability and Bikeability**
 - Potential Infrastructure and Policy Treatments
 - Implementation
 - Funding Sources
- **Next Steps**

Next Steps

AAMPO staff will
develop
workshop report

AAMPO will
present findings
to Zoning
Commission
(8/9/2023) and
City Council
(9/6/2023)

AAMPO will
submit report to
TxDOT and
partner agencies

Area leadership
advances ideas
to concepts and
plans

Identify and
pursue funding
opportunities

AAAMPO

A red swoosh graphic that starts under the first 'A' and curves upwards and to the right, ending under the 'O'.

Questions?

Matthew Moreno | Multimodal Transportation Planner
p: 210.230.6931 | e: moreno@alamoareampo.org
w: alamoareampo.org

ORDINANCE NO. 210-102022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS, ADOPTING BOARD AND COMMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; PROVIDING A CUMULATIVE AND SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, City Council and Commissions represent the City of Garden Ridge and should strive to present transparent, professional, efficient, and consistent meetings; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous City Commissions created to assist in the governance of the City of Garden Ridge, each independent of one another, created at different times with different procedures of operation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that a policy is needed to establish uniform standards and operating procedures for Boards and Commissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN RIDGE, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The findings set out herein are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part of this Ordinance for all purposes.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS/TERMS OF OFFICE.

Candidates seeking appointment to a City Board or Commission must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a registered voter in Garden Ridge, Comal County, Texas.
2. Reside in the City for at least six (6) months prior to appointment date.
3. Not have been convicted of a felony for which he or she has not been pardoned or acquitted.
4. Not have been found mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court.

If a Commissioner becomes ineligible as stipulated above, the position is considered vacant and an update is provided to City Council.

Commission appointments are made by City Council for a term of two (2) years with overlapping terms to create staggered terms of office. The staggered terms in effect at the time of the adoption of this policy will remain in effect. When a new Board or Commission is created, each place will be assigned a number. For the purpose of establishing staggered terms of office, the odd numbered positions will initially serve a term of one (1) year and the even numbered positions will serve a term of two (2) years. Thereafter, all terms will be two (2) year terms.

A Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed by each Commission on an annual basis for a maximum of four (4) consecutive years. The Chair and Vice-Chair may remain on the Commission as regular members after completing terms as Chair and Vice-Chair. A Chair may be reappointed as Chair after remaining out of that position for one (1) year, and a Vice-Chair may be reappointed as Vice-Chair after remaining out of that position for one (1) year.

SECTION 3. VACANCIES.

It is the intent of the City Council that collectively members to each Commission shall, by diversity of their individual occupations and experience, be broadly representative of the City. The City Council may establish specific qualifications and amend such qualifications as needed to meet the objective of each Board or Commission.

When a vacancy occurs, the City will seek qualified candidates from the public via all reasonable means. All applicants will be reviewed by City Staff to validate qualifications and eligibility. Qualified applicants will then be interviewed by an Interview Panel composed of the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem, Chair of the applicable Commission, and the City Administrator.

After qualified applicants have been interviewed, the Interview Panel will make a recommendation for appointment to City Council for their consideration and a final determination.

SECTION 4. PREPARATION AND PROCEDURES.

a) Attendance

Regular attendance is vital in order to conduct meetings in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act; therefore, Commissioners are expected to limit the number of absences and make every effort to notify the City Secretary and the Commission Chair as soon as possible of any absences. The Commission may make a recommendation, by a majority vote of the Commission, to have a Commissioner terminated for cause due to excessive absences that hinder the Commission's ability to conduct meetings or make informed recommendations.

b) Preparation

All Commissioners will be prepared for each meeting with the ability to spontaneously run any meeting should the need arise in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Preparation should include:

1. Thoroughly reviewing the agenda packet and any other pertinent material before the meeting.
2. Knowing the responsibilities of the Commission as well as the limitations of Commissioners' individual authority. Commissioners are members of an advisory body, which requires informed recommendations to City Council.
3. Being familiar with the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA), and be cautious with electronic communication regarding any issue, notably the risk of "walking quorums" that can occur unintentionally.
4. Maintaining familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order and the Commission's annual calendar reflecting the regular meeting dates of City Council and Commission meetings.

c) Procedures and Decorum

City Council is dependent on each Commission to make recommendations to the City Council. It is through not only the City Council meetings but through input from Commission meetings that City Council can receive citizen input.

Robert's Rules of Order will be followed in all cases where applicable to ensure the Chair as leader can conduct an efficient procedural meeting. However, strict adherence to the rules is not necessary for the orderly conduct of meetings. When a joint City Council/City Commission meeting is held, the Mayor will chair the meeting.

d) Agendas

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA), items not on the agenda cannot be discussed at that meeting. Items will be placed on the agenda by the Chair and the City Administrator adhering to established deadlines. The deadline for submission of an agenda item is fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda through unanimous consent or majority vote during a Commission meeting or outside of a public meeting, paying particular attention to adhering to the Texas Open Meetings Act, by:

1. The Chair;
2. The Chair and one (1) Commissioner. The Chair may consider nominations to the agenda from an individual Commissioner; or
3. Two (2) Commissioners. Both Commissioners must contact the City Administrator prior to the established deadline to nominate an agenda item. The Chair may not remove an item placed on an agenda by prior direction of the Commission.

Commission packets will be sent electronically to Commissioners prior to the meeting. Commissioners are expected to review the packet documents and notify the City Secretary of any corrections or amendments by established deadlines.

e) Chair/Vice-Chair

When the Chair is absent, the Vice-Chair will assume the duties of the Chair. In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, assuming there remains a quorum, a temporary Chair will be selected from the remaining Commissioners for the meeting. The Chair is responsible for:

1. Beginning meetings on time and allowing agenda items to be appropriately considered.
2. Maintaining procedure and decorum while ensuring that fair, impartial review and respect for all Commissioners, Staff, and the public is maintained.
3. Ensuring all comments are electronically recorded for the record by having all participants speak into a microphone.
4. Ensuring that the use of other electronic devices is limited to pertinent, urgent, or emergency use only.
5. Remaining a non-voting member unless voting in the case of a tie.
6. Reporting Commission recommendations and updates to City Council. If the Chair is unavailable to appear before City Council, the Chair must ensure the Vice-Chair or an available representative from the Commission appears before City Council. Absent an available representative, the Chair will deliver a written summary of the recommendations and updates to the City Secretary prior to the City Council meeting.

f) Ex-Officio

A City Council member will serve as an Ex-Officio Member of each Commission except the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ex-Officio Members are non-voting advisory positions.

g) Dress Code

The dress code for all scheduled Commission meetings will be “business casual”, except when an offsite meeting necessitates other appropriate attire as directed by the Chair.

h) Social Media

Commissioners should be judicious in their use of social media. Commissioners, in their official capacity representing the City, will not respond, comment, or post opinions, views, or information on social media that relates to any matter the Commission is considering, discussing, or recommending to City Council.

i) Training and Education

Within two (2) months of appointment, Commissioners must complete Texas Open Meetings Act Training and Texas Public Information Act Training as provided by The Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

The City Administrator, with input from the Commission Chair, will advise Commissioners of any additional training opportunities, and will facilitate Commissioners' registration and attendance. Due to specific legal requirements associated with participation on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Commissioners will attend training related to Planning and Zoning as deemed appropriate by the City Administrator. The Commissioners will be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable costs of attending approved training opportunities.

Commissioners are encouraged to attend at least two (2) regular City Council meetings during each calendar year, and to also view monthly City Council meetings online.

j) Dissolution

The City Council will periodically review boards/commissions for continued operations. If the City Council determines that a commission has completed its charge, the City Council may dissolve the commission. City Council will issue notice of dissolution to the chair of the board/commission, and the notice will provide for a reasonable wind down period. During this period the board/commission will work with City Staff to ensure the completion of board/commission business including completion of meeting minutes, proper archival of commission records with the City Secretary, and submission of a close out report to City Council.

Commission members will have the opportunity to apply for vacancies on another commission. Additionally, commission members may have the opportunity to participate in a technical committee if the City Council determines it has an issue that requires subject matter expertise. Technical committees created by City Council will be tasked with a specific purpose and shall operate for a specific time period. A technical committee will automatically dissolve upon completion of its charge, or the time prescribed by the City Council, without any further action by the City Council.

k) At-Will Appointments

The appointment provisions contained within this Ordinance are not contractual in nature. Appointments made by the City Council are "at-will", meaning that appointments may be terminated at any time, with or without notice, for any reason or no reason, by either a majority vote of the City Council or the appointed member. No verbal statements or promises made by anyone at the time of appointment or thereafter, contrary to this Ordinance, are binding on the City in any manner.

SECTION 5. INTERPRETATION OF RULES.

The City of Garden Ridge City Council adopts the aforementioned as its policy for the operating procedures and the appointment of citizens to City Boards and Commissions. In the event of any dispute related to the interpretation or application of the policy established herein, the City Council will hear and make such determinations as needed.

SECTION 6. CUMULATIVE AND SAVINGS.

This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City except where the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed. Any and all previous versions of this Ordinance to the extent that they are in conflict herewith are repealed.

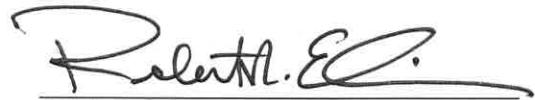
SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality will not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrases, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

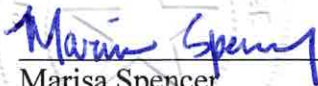
This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON this 12th day of October, 2022.



Robb Erickson
Mayor

ATTEST:



Marisa Spencer
City Secretary

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION TERMS OF OFFICE

Name	Place	Appointment & Expiration	Appointment & Expiration	Appointment & Expiration	Appointment & Expiration	Appointment & Expiration
Dr. Jim Miller	1	March 2016 September 2017	September 2017 September 2019	September 2019 September 2021	September 2021 September 2023	
Karen Diaz (Appointed Chair October 2021-current)	2	October 2017 September 2018	September 2018 September 2020	October 2020 September 2022	September 2022 September 2024	
Kerim Jacaman (Appointed Vice-Chair October 2021-current)	3	July 2019 September 2020	October 2020 September 2022	September 2022 September 2024		
Joe Maloney	4	February 2023 September 2023				
Michael Crow	5	March 2022 September 2023				
Roy Leatherberry	6	September 2021 September 2023				
Darren Bates	7	April 2022 September 2022	September 2022 September 2024			

Future Agenda Items

Planning and Zoning Commission

September 13, 2023, Regular Meeting

14 days before Meeting	(08/30/2023)	Commission and Staff items are due
8 days before Meeting	(09/05/2023)	City Administrator and Chair review agenda. City Attorney is sent the agenda for approval.
5 days before Meeting	(09/08/2023)	Post Agenda Packet to City Website
3 days before Meeting	(09/10/2023)	(72 hours) – Local Govt. Code requirement for posting

City Council = Red

Planning & Zoning = Green

Water Commission = Blue

Municipal Court = Gray

City Event = Yellow (First Friday)

City Holiday = Orange

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 11, 2023, Regular Meeting

14 days before Meeting	(09/27/2023)	Commission and Staff items are due
7 days before Meeting	(10/04/2023)	City Administrator and Chair review agenda. City Attorney is sent the agenda for approval.
6 days before Meeting	(10/05/2023)	Post Agenda & Packet to City Website
3 days before Meeting	(10/08/2023)	(72 hours) – Local Govt. Code requirement for posting

City Council = Red

Planning & Zoning = Green

Water Commission = Blue

Municipal Court = Gray

City Holiday = Orange

City Event = Yellow

- 10/3-National Night Out
- 10/6 – First Friday
- 10/31 – Trunk or Treat

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

PENDING FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Interactive Map
- Ordinance No. 55 (temporary signs/time restriction on temporary signs)