

San Antonio MOVE Roundtable Closeout Report

Executive Summary

Mobility Hubs connect transportation options in welcoming places that make your trips easier and more convenient -- the freedom to move however you choose!"

Context/Focus

In 2021, Urban Land Institute (ULI) commissioned a report on the benefit and potential implementation of mobility hubs in San Antonio, in partnership with VIA Metropolitan Transit, City of San Antonio, National Resources Defense Council, and other local stakeholders. With this report came significant technical resources and awareness, yielding the next iteration of questions, including:

- Since mobility hubs should be customized to the local context, what might mobility hubs mean in and deliver to San Antonio?
- How might the City's planning and transportation departments and other local stakeholders be able to leverage mobility hubs as an important mechanism to advance their goals?
- The stakeholder groups or "spokes" of a collaborative effort around mobility hubs were largely self-evident, but it was not clear what entity might serve as the hub to coordinate and champion implementation. This gave rise to the question: How could this group work towards figuring out who might serve in this capacity?

Intended objectives/takeaways of this engagement include:

- Forging stronger bonds between cohort members, yielding robust discussions and cooperative strategies in the short term and fostering collaborative approaches for the long term.
- Strengthening the shared sense of what mobility hubs could do for/in San Antonio, and beginning to create a shared narrative that can be further developed to disseminate more broadly.
- Allowing time and creating a safe space for the group to digest the information provided to date regarding potential mobility hubs in San Antonio.
- Starting to work on the mobility hub concept by developing context-specific goals and next steps toward an integrated mobility system that could transform the community, including laying the foundation for the City's Bicycle Network Masterplan Update and VIA's Mobility Hub study.

Purpose/Format

When the Roundtable began, people around the table were enthusiastic about moving forward with mobility hubs, with a 2021 San Antonio-specific, ULI-sponsored mobility hub report in hand. While this report was an important step in outlining how mobility hubs could be situated in and for the local context, stakeholders were yearning for the opportunity to figure out the practical implications and set the conditions for readiness at the ground level. The Roundtable provided the space and facilitation for these conversations.

Over the course of the 6 sessions, the Roundtable looked at two case studies to compare and contrast approaches in Minneapolis and Pittsburgh, developed a plain-language statement to set the vision of



San Antonio mobility hubs, and explored how mobility hubs could further transit equity and improve access for residents.

Initial Outcomes

At the conclusion of the Roundtable, participants walked away with:

- Their mobility hub statement:
"Mobility Hubs connect transportation options in welcoming places that make your trips easier and more convenient -- the freedom to move however you choose!"
- A better understanding of how City of San Antonio DOT would like to partner for mobility hubs
- Conviction that it's important to proceed at both a pilot level and a systems/network level
- Initial agreement to pursue pilot mobility hubs at two local redevelopment sites, [Brooks](#) and [VIDA](#), acknowledging the differences between these pilot sites and future mobility hub network sites, including:
 - They are intended to showcase what is possible to draw attention to the promise of a mobility hub network, not necessarily to serve as direct examples
 - They are in new developments, so they will be built into the neighborhood from the ground up rather than retrofitted into the fabric of an existing community
 - As pilots, they are intended to be learning opportunities, some mistakes will be made
- Agreement that it's important to identify an entity to oversee/manage mobility hub implementation, and an understanding of the different forms that this entity can take, including a trusted third-party non-profit
 - A local organization has been identified to take on the role as coordinating

Suggested next steps:

Based on the Roundtable and our experience in the transit/land use/community development space, Rail~Volution would like to suggest the following:

- Keep momentum going by convening ongoing coordination meetings to advance Brooks and VIDA pilots
- Continue to nurture relationship and maintain open communication with City Transportation and Planning Departments
- Work to develop explicit parameters about how the pilots will differ from and inform the eventual mobility hub network
- Mobility hubs were discussed primarily as a last-mile solution; consider expanding this messaging framework to be more inclusive and allow more people to see mobility hubs as a solution (example: climate change/resiliency, WiFi access, community green space, etc.)
- Revisit suggestion of media partnership to build public awareness and support for mobility hubs
- Use the equity Reflection Guide (link in Week 5 resources) to incorporate an equity lens throughout mobility hub planning and implementation
- Continue planning efforts specific to development of mobility hubs at Brooks and VIDA.
- Continue to plan and build support for a citywide network of mobility hubs