



September 2024

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association Newsletter

The Green Line Is Coming Will It Make Alta Vista Less Safe?

INFO

General Assemblies
Mark Twain Library 6:30PM

October 16
November 20

2024 AVNA BOARD PRESIDENT
Erin Zayko

VICE-PRESIDENT
Paul Arocha

SECRETARY
Lisa Lozano

TREASURER
Cheryl Dozier

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
Jennifer Khoshbin
Melissa Enriquez
VACANT

PAST PRESIDENT
Katie Adams

IMPORTANT SAPD & CIVIC
NUMBERS ON BACK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25 September - NO MEETING
1 October - Neighbors Together
16 October - Meeting with VIA
20 November - AVNA Board Elections
25 December - Christmas

The September 25th General Assembly meeting is postponed to Wednesday, October 16, for a special meeting with VIA Metropolitan Transit to discuss the Green Line.

Construction on the Green Line, VIA's advanced rapid transit (ART) line for buses, is set to commence in January. Once operational, the Green Line will reduce car traffic lanes from four to two along San Pedro, with the other two lanes designated for buses only, except for right turns. A VIA study anticipates increased traffic on W. Summit and N. Flores, areas near Mark Twain Dual Language Academy where traffic issues are already a concern. Another part of the study on the signalized intersections along San Pedro predicts no significant change in traffic once specific measures are implemented. However, it's important to note that reducing two lanes could lead to traffic congestion, prompting more drivers to use our neighborhood as a shortcut to avoid San Pedro. If reality differs from VIA's predictions about traffic flow, we could find ourselves on streets that are potentially less safe for everyone—pedestrians, bicyclists, and residents who drive and live here.

Dependable alternatives to car-centric travel, such as ART, are essential for managing San Antonio's growing population. However, we cannot allow our neighborhood schools and other areas to be afterthoughts in this process. City leaders missed an opportunity to dedicate funding to address traffic impacts from the Green Line early in the process. If we don't act now, we will prolong the potential for more speeding and unsafe conditions as construction of the Green Line gets underway.

Therefore, the Board of AVNA passed a resolution opposing the start of the construction of the Green Line until VIA demonstrates the need to reduce car lanes along our stretch and until there is a plan and funding in place for measures to address pedestrian safety in Alta Vista and adverse impacts from traffic in our neighborhood. **Read the full resolution on page 4, and please join us on October 16.** VIA will provide a status update and details regarding our Green Line stretch, and they will hear from you. This may be your last chance to ask questions and provide input. We'll have a veggie tray and a tray of finger sandwiches from Scratch Kitchen.

Breeden Drainage Project Phase 2

The Flores and Russell drainage improvements are working, but the work isn't complete. Another phase is planned for Breeden from Mistletoe to Russell. For more information, scan the code to the right.



@AltaVistaNA.org



@AltaVistaNA

Other Neighborhood News

The Green Line and Transit Oriented Development

The City is leading a Task Force to create new transit-oriented development (TOD) zoning laws. The goal is to encourage more residential, commercial, and leisure spaces within walking distance of the Green Line. AVNA is one of only a handful of neighborhoods represented on the TOD Task Force, mainly comprised of development interests.

Commercial and medium to high-density residential properties that abut the Green Line will be eligible to rezone to one of two new TOD districts. One proposal would allow TOD zoning up to a quarter mile from any advanced rapid transit bus line. Another would make single-family properties on large lots eligible. TOD zoning typically relaxes requirements for setbacks and parking spaces, which has some neighbors worried. Fredericksburg Road is part of VIA's rapid transit network, and there are reports of long-time tenants leaving due to increasing rents associated with recent improvements on that stretch.

AVNA will continue to follow TOD Task Force developments and make recommendations when the final package moves forward for a vote in the coming months. In the meantime, you can take this sugar-coated survey.



Why Keeping Our Alleys Clean Matters

Hey neighbors! If your house backs up to an alley, keeping that space clean and clear is more important than you might think. Not only does it make things look nicer, but it also helps keep our neighborhood safe and welcoming.

According to San Antonio's Municipal Code (Chapter 14, Section 14-65), homeowners are responsible for maintaining the alleys behind their homes. That means trimming overgrown bushes, mowing grass, and removing any trash or debris. Why? Because blocked alleys can lead to flooding issues, make it hard for emergency vehicles to pass through, and even attract unwanted pests.

But it's not just about following the rules. Keeping alleys clean is a simple way to show respect for your neighbors. No one likes dealing with messy, overgrown spaces – and when we all pitch in, the whole neighborhood benefits. A clean alley means fewer critters, better curb appeal, and a safer space for everyone.

So next time you're doing yard work, don't forget the alley! A little effort goes a long way in making our neighborhood a better place to live.

Let's keep our community beautiful and safe together!

Nominate Yourself for a Leadership Role

The Alta Vista Neighborhood Association seeks candidates who are passionate about serving the community to join the Board of Directors. **Elections will be held at the November 20** meeting. Nominate yourself by emailing this information to avna@altavistna.org:

- Name; Phone; Email
- Why would you like to serve on the AVNA Board?
- Do you have a preferred role (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, At Large)?

Terms are one year; therefore, every role is up for nomination. The AVNA Nominating Committee will work with nominees to identify candidates for each position for the General Assembly's consideration. Any competitive races will be voted on individually.

The Alta Vista neighborhood is recognized by city ordinance as a Neighborhood Conservation District. The AVNA, as a 501(c)4 civic organization, is committed to representing the wide variety of opinions in the neighborhood. The City is required to notify us of issues that can impact you, and we work diligently to keep neighbors informed. Contact Erin Zayko at (210) 288-4883 for more information.

DON'T SPEED

Max is 30 mph by law

**Max 20 – 25 mph to be courteous
of families and pets in Alta Vista**



ALTA VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BECOME A MEMBER

Individual - \$15 Couple - \$30 Business - \$35

Website: Use the QR code below or go to altavistana.org. Click on "Become a Member" in the right-hand column of the Home page or the "Join or Donate" tab at top of the page.

Zelle: Use our email address avna@ymail.com. Please include your address, email, and names (e.g. Jane Doe or Jane & John Doe, or Jane's Bakery)

Mail: Send us a note with your address, email, and names (e.g. Jane Doe or Jane & John Doe, or Jane's Bakery), along with a check to:

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 12174
San Antonio TX 78212





- CATERING WEDDINGS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS
- PRIVATE PARTIES AT OUR RESTAURANT
- HOLIDAY PIES!



www.ScratchSanAntonio.com

Around Alta Vista

Alta Vista spokesperson needed! In 2025, President Erin Zayko plans to remain on the Board as Past President and Chair of the Technical Committee. She needs more time to help AVNA navigate everything planned for our area, making room for a new head of state to lead General Meetings and coordinate various organizational aspects with help from other board members. Nominate yourself today! More info is on the opposite page.

2602 N. Flores: Last month, the great-looking design for two gallery spaces and four co-op studio spaces was approved as part of HDRC's consent agenda. We're looking forward to what comes next!

The Alta Vista Arts Committee has been notified that work to refresh the artwork at the **Fulton St. underpass** will commence soon. Thank you, Jen Khoshbin and the Committee, for following up with the City to make this happen. Thanks to Hector Cardenas, the lights on the decorative wall installed by Twyla Arthur have also been replaced.

We're corresponding with The Playhouse regarding clean-up at **741 W. Ashby**. Unfortunately, the gated patio is still in a deplorable condition. The property is for sale. Let's hope for a new owner. The only way to keep out trespassers is to put the space to good use.

The soon-to-open wine concierge and boutique at the corner of **Woodlawn and Flores** looks excellent. The wood has been replaced with windows. Walk by and look!

Please consider grabbing one or two extra grocery items for our neighborhood Food Pantry. A few people tell us they use it for their weekly meals. Located at **Midtown Meetup @ 801 W. Russell**.

The **AV Arts Committee** is planning fall activities. Be on the lookout for another AV Session and other fun events soon! To volunteer, contact avna@altavistana.org



NEIGHBORS TOGETHER COOKOUT & POTLUCK

FOOD, FUN, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES,
AND LIVE MUSIC FROM
MUSIC ON MAGNOLIA

TUESDAY, OCT 1

435 W. HUISACHE

6 - 8 PM

(HOST JAM SESSION TO FOLLOW)



POTLUCK SIGN UP



Civic Contacts:

City of San Antonio District 1

Councilwoman: Sukh Kaur,
D1@sanantonio.gov,
Office: (210) 207-7279
D1 Liaison, La Juana Chambers Dawson:
(210) 207-7279,
lajuana.chambersdawson@sanantonio.gov

Alta Vista SAPD SAFTE Officer

Officer Jesus "Jessie" Hinojosa:
(210) 207-7413
Jesus.Hinojosa@sanantonio.gov

Police Non-Emergency:

(210) 207-SAPD (7273)

Code Enforcement:

Officer Ruby Luna, (210) 618-5867
Ruby.Luna2@sanantonio.gov

Denise Hasting, D1 supervisor,
(210) 416-5851

Denise.Hastings@sanantonio.gov

Kristy Garza, Dangerous Premises
Officer:

kristy.garza@sanantonio.gov

Saturday Code Enforcement hotline:
(210) 207-2633

Vacant Buildings Officer:

Crystal.Grafft@sanantonio.gov

Homeless Outreach Coordinator, District 1:

Ramon Gonzales, (210) 371-9998,
ramon.gonzales@sanantonio.gov

Homeless Connections Hotline:

(210) 207-1799

Animal Care Services District 1

Officer:

Officer Adan Perez,

adan.perez@sanantonio.gov

US House of Representatives, District TX-35

Congressman Greg Casar (TX-35)

Irene Chavez Galvan, District Director
210.307.0357,
irene.chavezgalvan@mail.house.gov

Texas State Representative, District 123:

Diego Bernal, (210) 308-9700
Bethany Gutierrez, District Director
bethany.gutierrez@house.texas.gov

Texas State Senator, District 26:

José Menéndez,
(210) 733-6604 (district office)

Bexar County Commissioner:

Tommy Calvert, (210) 335-2614

Bexar County Sheriff's Office:

(210) 335-6010

SAISD D6 Trustee:

Christina Martinez
Martinez.Christina1@gmail.com



AVNA Board Green Line Resolution

WHEREAS VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) is planning to build an advanced transit bus corridor (the Green Line) on San Pedro Ave., at the cost of almost ~\$450 million and

WHEREAS the Green Line is in the final stages of design, with construction beginning in January 2025, potentially starting at the Hildebrand intersection and eventually permanently reducing lanes for car traffic on the Alta Vista and Monte Vista stretch of San Pedro from four down to two and

WHEREAS Alta Vista residents and neighborhood association members have expressed a variety of opinions, some who support the Green Line and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on Alta Vista, some opposed to losing two lanes for cars, and some who would like to be updated on what the design details are for our neighborhood today and

WHEREAS a VIA study predicts increased traffic on W. and E. Summit and N. Flores, two streets that are already impacted by periodic congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times that coincide with the general morning and afternoon rush and

WHEREAS there will be no significant change from current traffic patterns at the Green Line's signalized intersections according to VIA, because of improvements that they plan to make, it should not be Alta Vista's burden to bear if their predictions are wrong, or if issues arise with implementation and maintenance of Green Line improvements and

WHEREAS the potential for impatient drivers approaching and leaving Downtown and Midtown from all directions to use our streets to avoid the center running and the outer lane running portions of the Green Line is a serious concern and

WHEREAS there is no plan or funding to ensure that our neighborhood won't be made less safe due to the Green Line, which is counter to the idea of transit-oriented development, especially near a school zone

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the AVNA requests from VIA and the City of San Antonio:

- 1) A delay in the start of construction of the Green Line until:
 - a. A plan and funding are in place for pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures deemed appropriate by stakeholders in affected portions of our neighborhood, for example, signalized or artistic thermoplastic crosswalks or other measures that improve overall multi-modal safety and beautify our neighborhood and
 - b. There are no changes to current lane uses from Hildebrand to Ashby or until data is presented to the community showing the Green Line is substantially slowed without lane reductions and
- 2) An immediate review of opportunities to improve current and post-Green Line conditions around Mark Twain Dual Language Academy, on the impacted portions of Summit and Flores, and any other streets that may be affected but not identified here.

Want to make a difference in Alta Vista?

Be a Block Captain!

Responsibilities Include

- Distributing AVNA newsletters.
- Communicating any neighborhood concerns.
- Displaying yard signs for AVNA events.

Email AVNA@altavistana.org or Facebook [@AltaVistaNA.org](https://www.facebook.com/AltaVistaNA.org)