

Focus Group 1 Meeting Summary

December 12, 2023



City of Tomball

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

ABOUT THE MEETING

The first Focus Group meeting for the Tomball Comprehensive Plan was held on December 12, 2023, at Tomball City Hall. The Focus Group is made up of 17 community stakeholders representing various agencies, neighborhoods, and businesses. In addition to the Focus Group members, City staff from the Community Development Department, and City Manager's Office attended the meeting. The consultant team from Freese and Nichols, Inc. facilitated the meeting.

The meeting began with a presentation about the project, expectations, existing conditions and context. During the presentation, the Focus Group participated in exercises to identify the issues and opportunities for the area. The meeting closed with final thoughts and identified next steps.

DISCUSSION

The Focus Group was guided through a discussion to identify strengths, opportunities, aspirations, results, and visioning. The following notes are a transcription of the original meeting notes taken during the meeting.

Vision Statement Comments

What changes should be considered for the existing vision statement?

- The vision is lengthy and generic. It could use some tweaks, like blending the last two sentences.
- It talks about celebrating, but not a destination. The activity level has increased, and more festivals are helping with creating that destination.
- Tomball is finding itself in competition with neighboring cities as a destination.
- Accessibility to services is not as great as it once was. Some people are moving closer to town for this reason.
- The market assessment will be important and look at the fringes of the city limits and where people are visiting.
- They want to be a destination for all without Tomball losing its culture.
- Friendly community and family atmosphere.
- Tomball is said to be diverse, but there are still strides to be made to be considered diverse. It could start with making sure that it is serving diverse people.
- Remove text "our community has grown"

Strengths

What existing conditions are the community's greatest assets?

- Mom and Pops Shop
- Population around Tomball (not only in city limits)
- Hidden gems throughout the City
- Demographics
- Existing Culture

- Coming to Tomball is almost like “going back in time”. Meaning its like the old days where you have walkable streets, kind neighbors, etc.
- Friendly People
- Creative People
- Welcoming place for all people
- The School District
- The City Services

Opportunities

What current conditions should be built upon in the future?

- Advertise "Tomball".
- Collaboration of creativity. There are many Creative people and opportunities in Tomball.
- Educate people on the culture of Tomball.
- Educate people about the boundaries/differences between City/ETJ.
- Encourage visitors to come and enjoy Tomball (and then return to their homes in other communities.)
- Overall, don't change Tomball as it is.
- The size of downtown is good, but its land utilization could be better.
- Structure parking and parking signage Vacant parcels in downtown are an opportunity for a new parking structure. Implement a people mover to help get people around downtown.
- Maintain aesthetics.
- Vacant parcels are an opportunity.
- Tomball could be a sports destination for sports tournaments.
- Get a conference/event center with at least 12 breakout rooms. It could be located adjacent to Downtown.

Challenges

What are Tomball's greatest Challenges?

- Confusion of city limits
- School district and boundaries
- Connecting downtown, making it more walkable in a safe manner
 - Connect all parts of Downtown
 - Improve pedestrian safety
 - The railroad tracks create a barrier
- Parking is also a challenge as it is limited.
- County owned streets and facilities
- Large number of newcomers have moved to Tomball that may impact public input. They have not been in Tomball long enough to establish a clear understanding of what Tomball needs or what the vision of the future should be.
- The west side feels different from other parts of the city.

Downtown

What are the issues or opportunities specifically for Downtown?

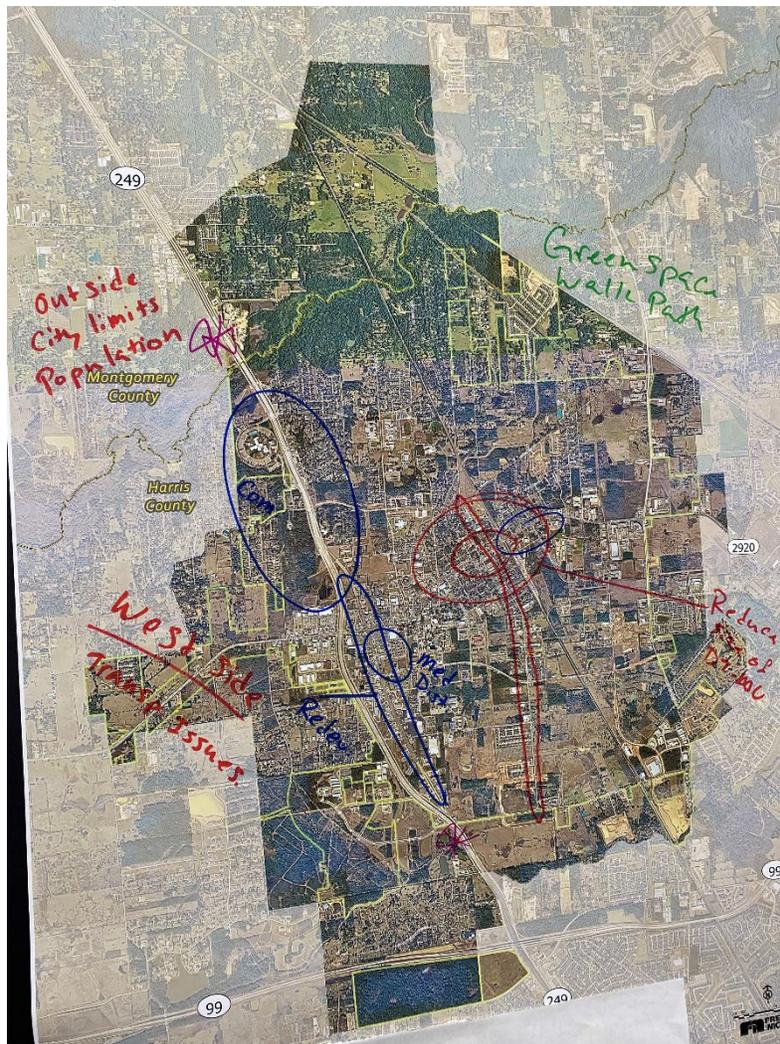
- Lighting should be improved, not well lit.
- There is a lack of sidewalk connectivity.
- Issues with drainage. Is there a possibility of covering some of the open ditches?
- Conference and boutique attraction

Opportunity Areas

What areas of the City should be considered for opportunity areas?

- Medical district destination
- Preservation of green space should be considered.
- Business 249 is a huge opportunity area
- Focus on the west side
- East Side of Downtown

Opportunity Area Map Notes



In One Word, what would make this Plan Successful?

- Money
- Collaboration
- Consensus
- Open-Minded
- Connectivity
- Relationship
- Participation
- Community-Understanding