

**LEANDER CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
JOINT WORKSHOP #1 REPORT**

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 6 to 7 p.m.

Pat Bryson Municipal Hall, Council Chambers – 201 N. Brushy Street, Leander, TX 78641

Overview

The Kendig Keast Collaborative (KKC) team shared a [presentation](#) with the Leander City Council and Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission regarding the kick-off of the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan update. Key objectives of the presentation and questions discussed include:

- Process and Timeline
 - Five project phases
- Context for Plans
 - Brief overview of collected metrics representing Leander today, including population density, median age, jobs-to-housing ratio, traffic congestion, and crash analysis
- Initial Priorities
 - Ways in which Leander is the same and different since the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and 2021 Transportation Master Plan
 - Major City and community accomplishments in recent years
 - Strategic opportunities and challenges facing Leander that must be addressed, or remain an ongoing focus, in the updated plans

Attendees

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE
Na’Cole Thompson	City of Leander	Mayor
Stephen Chang	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 1
Michael Herrera	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 2
Natomi Blair	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 3
Annette Sponseller	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 4
Andrew Naudin	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 5
Becki Ross	City of Leander	Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member, Place 6

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE
Donnie Mahan	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 1
Joseph Morales	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 2
Karen Lewis	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 3
Jay Coats	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 4
Laura Lantrip	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 6
Tyler Bray	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 7
Todd Parton	City of Leander	City Manager
Kent Souriyasak	City of Leander	Assistant to the City Manager, Innovation Coordinator
Michael Chenausky	City of Leander	City Project Manager, Senior Planner
Robin Griffin	City of Leander	Executive Director of Development Services
Karina Castillo	City of Leander	Planning Manager
Gary Mitchell	Kendig Keast Collaborative	Consultant Project Manager
Jennifer Mak	Kendig Keast Collaborative	Consultant Deputy Project Manager
Frank Barrera	Lochner	Sub Lead, Multimodal Transportation Planning Lead
Zane Rodriguez	Lochner	Transportation Master Plan Support
Lilly Swank	CD&P	Community Engagement Lead
Ashlyn Hernandez	CD&P	Community Engagement Support

Not present: James Oliver, P&Z Commission Member, Place 5

Also: Other City staff plus public attendees during the workshop hour

Notes

Leander since 2020–2021 Plans Updates

- Leander has continued to grow at a rapid pace, while City services have not kept pace
- Traffic has significantly increased
- Most officials on City Council and P&Z Commission have changed since the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and 2021 Transportation Master Plan

Proudest Leander Accomplishments

- Completion of the Senior Center to offer activities and programming to residents
- Increased commercial growth, though it has magnified challenges in scaling City services to keep pace with population growth

- Continued investment in public safety and development services to remain one of the safest cities in the area
- Successful use of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan to guide decision making, while remaining flexible and adjusting the plan where needed to keep in line with changing conditions and priorities

Council and Commission Top Priorities

Community Identity and Quality of Life

- Cultivate community and a strong sense of place
 - Expand “third places” – Spaces for community gathering outside of the home and work
- Strengthen the overall identity of the community
 - Address the challenge of “multiple Leanders” due to phased growth to promote a more unified, cohesive community feel
- Expand City amenities for residents
 - Increase recreational opportunities, including indoor options for children
 - Improve walkability and bike accessibility
 - Consider financial and geographic challenges to construct a Recreation Center or similar amenities to serve all of Leander
 - Address geographic equity between Old Leander and growth along Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Infrastructure and Public Safety

- Prioritize safety across all planning efforts to support a facet of City identity and continue to attract new residents
 - Consider all transportation methods to move residents throughout the City, including walking and bike accessibility
 - Identify immediate safety needs and set actionable plans, such as addressing limited parking to increase pedestrian safety at Robin Bledsoe Park
- Address traffic concerns to maintain quality of life
- Strengthen east-west mobility
- Enhance infrastructure through coordinated policies with local, regional, and statewide agencies

- Approach with a long-term mindset to avoid investing in smaller infrastructure that must be re-done years later

Growth, Development, and Economic Vitality

- Balance growth with quality of life
 - Prioritize maintaining quality of life valued by existing residents while planning for long term growth to support sustainable development
 - Plan for development while remaining mindful of water constraints and City service capacity
 - Preserve and support the strong educational opportunities that attract residents
- Take meaningful actions to emphasize economic development and business growth
 - Identify new ways the City can attract employers
 - Consider tools to support small businesses and form a clear commercial/business strategy
 - Continue transition from a “bedroom community” to a more balanced, growing local economy
 - Foster commercial growth to provide local amenities and reduce commuting to neighboring cities

Planning Approach and Implementation

- Build an actionable, implementable plan
 - Focus on attainable short-term milestones that support long-term goals
- Take a regional approach to planning
 - Consider employment trends
 - Coordinate with neighboring communities
 - Integrate transportation system and make decisions with the broader region in mind
- Include the community throughout plan development
 - Use clear, simple language to improve understanding and transparency
 - Ensure demographic representation to reflect priorities from all Leander communities

Photos

