

## LEANDER CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP #2 REPORT

**Thursday, May 21, 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 ongoing Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan update. Key objectives of the presentation and questions discussed include:

- Leander Today Phase Takeaways
  - Review of key findings from the Leander Today phase, including population trends, demographic shifts, public safety considerations, infrastructure needs, travel patterns, and employment trends
- Five Planning Themes for Future Leander
  - Overview of the five planning themes developed through community outreach and engagement activities to guide future plan development
- Focus Areas for Plan Based on Five Planning Themes
  - Discussion of major priorities, focus areas, and implementation considerations associated with each planning theme
- Verification of Consensus on Plan Direction
  - Confirmation that the plans are addressing community priorities and discussion of actions to prioritize within the next 3 – 5 years

### 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
Andrew Naudin	City of Leander	Council Member, Place 5

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE
Becki Ross	City of Leander	Mayor Pro Tem/Council Member, Place 6
Todd Parton	City of Leander	City Manager
Dara Crabtree	City of Leander	City Secretary
Donnie Mahan	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 1
Joseph Morales	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 2 (and CPAC member)
Karen Lewis	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 3
Jay Coats	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 4
James Oliver	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 5
Laura Lantrip	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 6 (and CPAC member)
Tyler Bray	City of Leander	P&Z Commission Member, Place 7
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: Annette Sponseller, Council Member, Place 4*

*Also: Other City staff, CPAC members, plus public attendees during the workshop hour*

## Notes

### Leander Today Takeaways

- Leander continues to experience rapid growth, with approximately 17.5% of residents moving into their home in 2024, reflecting a highly dynamic population
- The City continues to attract young families and working-age residents, while Leander ISD remains a strong community draw
- Residents experience longer commute times than neighboring communities, with many traveling outside the City for employment

- The Council and P&Z Commission emphasized the need to improve east-west connectivity, attract employers closer to home, and strengthen regional transportation partnerships
- Public safety concerns focused on traffic congestion, emergency response times, roadway safety, school area congestion, and pedestrian connectivity

## Planning Themes and Focus Areas

### Effective Growth Management

- Coordinate infrastructure, utilities, and roadway capacity to accommodate ongoing and projected growth
- Preserve natural areas when planning for long-term corridor development
- Maintain clear communication and transparency with residents

### Safe Community and Livable Community

- Prioritize roadway and pedestrian safety, school zone congestion mitigation, flood and wildfire preparedness, and multimodal connectivity
- Expand recreational opportunities and enhance activity centers such as Northline and Old Town
- Maintain Leander's identity and sense of community
- Integrate safety and quality-of-life considerations into all planning efforts

### Balanced Economy and Tax Base

- Attract major employers and expand local job opportunities to create a more balanced local economy
- Support entrepreneurs, small businesses, and commercial development
- Leverage infrastructure investments to support economic development and reduce outbound commuting

### Sustainable and Resilient Community

- Support long-term infrastructure planning and preserve natural features
- Promote water conservation, drought resilience, and regional partnerships
- Sustain Old Town as a cultural and recreational destination

## Council and Commission Top Priorities

### Prioritization and Implementation

- Build an actionable, implementable plan
  - Focus on achievable priorities and attainable short-term milestones within the next 3–5 years
  - Ensure future infrastructure, capital improvement, and utility investments align with the Comprehensive Plan
  - Balance community priorities with realistic funding and implementation constraints

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Improve transportation and connectivity throughout the City
  - Address school area congestion, roadway safety, and pedestrian infrastructure
  - Strengthen east-west mobility and regional transportation connections
  - Balance roadway improvements with pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure
  - Maintain and improve existing infrastructure while planning for future growth

## **Economic Development and Growth**

- Promote long-term economic growth and community sustainability
  - Attract employers and diversify the local economy to reduce outbound commuting
  - Coordinate infrastructure investment, water availability, housing affordability, and economic development efforts
  - Prioritize projects that align across multiple City plans and support long-term economic sustainability

## **Community Identity and Communication**

- Strengthen community identity and public engagement throughout the planning process
  - Use clear, simple language to improve transparency and public understanding
  - Continue community engagement and maintain open communication with residents

- Align the community branding effort with the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan updates to strengthen Leander’s identity and sense of community

## Photos

