



# Annexation Program Update

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On December 4, 2014, the City of San Antonio directed the Department of Planning and Community Development to initiate limited purpose annexation for five annexation priority areas, which are contiguous to the city limits and within the San Antonio Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and Bexar County. Five priority areas were identified based on the evaluation criteria established by the City's annexation policy adopted in 2013. The areas encompass 66.47 square miles and have a population of approximately 117,517. Phase I areas proposed for annexation in 2015-2016 are IH 10 West, US 281 North, and IH 10 East, and Phase II areas for 2016-2017 are Hwy 151 and US 90/Loop 1604.

Annexation open house sessions for Phase I areas were held in August 2015, and the public hearing process was initiated in the fall of 2015. As a result of citizen input, the Mayor and City Council wanted additional time to vet the annexation program. Two working groups are providing additional analysis related to the annexation program: the Annexation Technical Working Group and the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan Working Groups. These working groups will provide recommendations to City Council based on their review and analysis of the annexation program.

The City Manager convened an Annexation Technical Work Group of seven external individuals to analyze city staff's financial and growth assumptions within the City's 20 Year Financial Annexation Impact Study. At the same time, two independent third party reports by Public Financial Management, Inc. and HR&A Advisors, Inc. were developed to evaluate the City's Annexation Plan and City staff's financial analysis and growth assumptions. These were completed in January and are being used by the Annexation Technical Work Group. The Work Group has met four times since November 2015. One additional meeting is scheduled in March for the Annexation Technical Work Group to formulate its assessment and conclusions of City staff's growth and financial assumptions within the 20 Year Financial Annexation Impact Study.

The SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan Working Groups are evaluating the City Council's approved annexation policies and program within the context of the developing Comprehensive Plan. The Plan Element Working Groups (PEWGs) are reviewing:

- the 31 City Council approved annexation policies adopted in 2013
- the 30 areas initially identified by staff for annexation in the Annexation 360 Report
- the five priority annexation areas (Interstate 10 East and West, Highway 281, Alamo Ranch, and US 90/1604)
- alternative annexation scenarios (e.g., annexing only commercial property)
- Emergency Service Districts impacts and benefits
- the impacts of annexation on the "central city"

Since November, 2015, the PEWGs have met four times, and a final meeting will be held on March 2, 2016. The City's annexation program is being reviewed utilizing national best practices and case studies. Additionally findings and recommendations of the third party reports are being provided to the PEWGs. Ultimately, the PEWGs will provide a recommendation within the context of the Comprehensive Plan that addresses the policy issues of if, when, and where the City of San Antonio should annex.

City Council will receive the Technical Work Group's recommendation in March and the Comprehensive Plan Working Group's recommendation in May, and City staff will ask the City Council for policy guidance on how to proceed with annexation.

For more information on the Annexation Program, contact the City's Department of Planning and Community Development at 207-PLAN (7526) or visit the web site at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/Planning/PlanningUrbanDesign/Annexation/AnnexationProgram.aspx>