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City works toward long-range transportation plan for 2040

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SAN ANTONIO - If you think traffic is bad now, wait another 25 years when an estimated 1.1 million more people are expected to be living in San Antonio.

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New national HUD rules call for mixing of SA neighborhoods (http://www.ksat.com/content/pns/ksat/news/2015/07/08/new-national-hud-rules-call-for-mixing-of-sa-neighborhoods.html)

However, the city of San Antonio is already in the fast lane, looking for alternatives to keep traffic moving by studying all modes of transportation.

That's good news to San Antonio resident Red Luckey, who doesn't just run the bike shop at REI, he also rides his own bike to work every day.

"I can get here quicker on my bicycle than I can in a car," said Luckey. "I don't have to fight with traffic so much. I do a couple little cut through the parking lots and such to make it a lot easier than to have a big loop around."

It helps that REI provides parking and showers for employees.

Luckey said he's hoping other San Antonio businesses will eventually catch on, as well as the city.

"(I would like to see) protected bike lanes, bike-specific paths and networks that enable you to get from one side of the city to the other without having to touch a traditional roadway," said Luckey.

The city is working on developing a long-range transportation plan and to get the feedback of people like Luckey. To do that the city is holding more than a dozen workshops, asking citizens about the issues they face on the way to work, to school and around the city.

"You hear about the 1.1 million people we're going to get between now and 2040," said Terry Bellamy, assistant director of TCI for the city of San Antonio. "What this is ... is to give us feedback before we develop the final plan to present to the community next year."

Bellamy said they are looking at all modes of transportation.

"We know we all agree on some things, including reduced congestion, better air quality, we want to be able to move around safely," said District 8 Councilman Ron Nirenberg. "So, with all those principles in mind, let's look off of the menu of options we have available and our resources."

A recent Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Study found there are approximately 325,000 people who bike at least once a month.

The majority of bicycle riders are recreational cyclists, but 17 percent use a bicycle to run errands, 7 percent ride to work and 4 percent ride to school.

If you want to attend any of the transportation workshops, they are listed below:

- July 27 (11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 4 6 p.m.) Barbara Jordan Community Center, 2803 E. Commerce
- July 28 (11 a.m. 12:30 p.m. and 4 5:30 p.m.) Melendrez Community Center, 5909 W. Commerce
- July 29 (11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 4 6 p.m.) Central Library, 600 Soledad
- July 30 (11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 4 6 p.m.) Brookhollow Library, 530 Heimer
- Aug. 3 (Noon to 2 p.m. and 4 6 p.m.) Great Northwest Library, 9050 Wellwood
- Aug. 4 (11 a.m. 1 p.m. and 4 6 p.m.) Pan America Library, 1122 W. Pyron
- Aug. 11 (6 8 p.m.) live online webinar at <u>SATransportationplan.com/webinar</u> (http://www.satransportationplan.com/webinar).

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