Verbal Comments during Visioning Town Halls

"Being poor is expensive"
"No" list concept from Library as a way to measure information on services that should be provided on larger scale than individual questions
"Those who live by the river in Rio Vista have suffered"
"When is it rainy enough" to use rainy day funds for housing and the budget shortfall?
5-7 minute opposition presentation was once permitted
A municipal ride share or options better than Uber & Lyft
Access and transparency in our government through... agenda drafts
Access and transparency in our government through... campaign conflict of interests, ethic decisions, when elected shouldn't be voting
Access and transparency in our government through... committee reports at meetings with attendance records
Access and transparency in our government through... consistency across boards &commission information (meeting location, date/come, etc.)
Access and transparency in our government through... financial impacts such as cost for consultants versus in-house, Chapter 380 agreements, fee in lieu agreements
Access and transparency in our government through... information shared during City programs (e.g. UniverCity, Citizen Academies)
Access and transparency in our government through... minutes
Access and transparency in our government through... record of votes
Access to housing
Access to mental health
Accessibility to medical equity and to live in community
Accessibility on transit
Back-up survey plan if not all neighborhoods are represented
Be prepared for displacement of crowds as we look and implement strategies at the River
Board & Commissions not listening to speakers or sounding bored during citizen comment
Bring tax base up through diversification of tax base
Childcare availability and affordability
Clarity on policies and ordinances on transparency and conflicts of interest (e.g. staff with spouses on boards & commissions impacting policy)
Clarity on what P&Z Commissioners can consider
Concerns about large buildings on CM Allen because of its impact on water
Consideration of developmental impact on river and flooding
Consistent messaging on downtown priorities
Contradiction with some wanting kid friendly spaces but others wanting to remove Ramon Lucio Park because they don't like how it looks
Cost/benefit analysis on data center
County coordination on data center
County participation on mental health resources for those at jail
Desire for people to understand the importance of the Habitat Conservation Plan
Desire for updates on transit
Desire to understand impact of TXST on calls for service/emergencies
Dialogue on consistent basis
Digestible information on the data center's dangers
Don't allow tax abatements
Don't want to have flood amnesia
Door knocking for surveys
Downtown diversification of businesses
Downtown revitalization and safety
Empower people
Environmental concerns re: trash at the river.
Fees for vacant lots
Follow-up from City Council or acknowledgement when emailing
Gas smell at Hopkins/Comanche (HEB area)
Growing too fast, "pon los frenos"

Harmonization of drought levels across the region (NOAA 5 levels)
HCEDC impacting staff
City Council meet weekly based on length of meetings and items
Classes on bikes
Each school have a dedicated influence that shares the opportunities
Flood mitigation grants for 2D modeling to identify where flooding can occur and needs.
Free bikes for kids or low-income community members. Perhaps people can donate towards the bike program via utility bill.
Help non-profits with grants so they can be compensated for their work in/at the river. For grants that require a match, can the City pay a portion or upfront?
Partnership with businesses for bike program
Poll comments shared during community town halls to gauge number of attendees in agreement with comment
Presentation (or report) at City Council meetings on the Council committees and Boards and Commissions
Promote on NextDoor
Provide better education on budget processes and challenges, comprehensive presentation on the budget to include impact of TXST, FAQs, opportunity to ask questions
Use town halls as an opportunity to uncover why trust is where it is
Include trust results as part of Community Survey narrative and results
Small or no fee based on eligibility for scooter or bike program.
Impact on changes in animal shelter, and staffing
Increase in education on water, severity of drought, and water restrictions
Increase spin scooters and bikes
Information and action towards law suits in Texas with Section 504
Information sharing on resources and opportunities on trade skills for HS students
Insights on connections to budget short fall
Intentional use of lobbyist
Is there someone that drives around to identify vacant building in the City?
Kid friendly spaces
Lack of disconnect notice and/or short window after non-payment
Level of trust with communication in support or opposition
Lighting among alleyways is poor
Listen to the content experts and residents who spend their time researching
Make City Council meetings more democratic
Map of survey respondents
Mobility options on TXST campus (e.g. scooters)
Money is the biggest elephant in the room for the community
More transparency on budget
No data center
Not inviting staff who can answer questions during public meetings to do so.
Not listening to community
Open dialogue on ideas that don't harm others and our community
Opportunities for genuine dialogue with the City on large issue
Opposed to data center
Overwhelming to live near river in summer.
Paid parking: Lions Club members arrive early for service projects and ticketed
Paid parking: no initial notice and $75 bill includes penalty fees
Paid parking: poor execution, form doesn't work
Provide encouragement and exposure to HS students
Provide information on process perspective for policies that are not approved but not denied
Provide longer grace period or emails for non payment on utilities
Provide opportunities for content experts and those in opposition to also speak at meetings
Provide update on TXST/CoSM bus partnership
Provisions on property owners colluding on rent prices (AI program being used?)
Pursue economic development that doesn't ruin our environment
Resources to go towards things and resources that prevent crime
Review policy for transparency in terms of impropriety with staff implementing programs and spouse as board member impacting policy

Revisit to strengthen policy if not breaking even
Setting a cap on university growth?
Sewage smell near Price Center
Small business don't receive the same walk through as developers
Standing water on MLK
Supporting public services and mental health
Survey was too complicated, too repetitive
Taxes brought back down to have a community that people can afford to live in
TBOR
The ways that staff answer questions is not empowering
Townhalls on budget process
Tracking issues with animal services
Transparency in business development/attraction
Turn off sprinkler for one calendar year at City facilities to see what happens
Use mechanisms to have business pay better wages
Utilize comprehensive plan
Vacant building on Comanche/Hutchinson has broken windows (for years)
Vacant structures in downtown areas (e.g. theatre, old Lamar School, former Food Bank)--what is being done with them
Water is life, need more education
Ways to build community with others with disabilities
We need radically, creative approaches to address issues
We've been having this problem for years, how do we not have a back-up
What increases will be done in education, safety, etc.?
What is being done about having the Old First Baptist Church restored?
What is the City's required role with ICE?
When push votes are used during meetings, people can't immediately see how each Council member voted.
Who is the judge on "layman's terms" language
Will the park fee go towards staffing?
Zoning of data centers: setting rules/terms, some areas zone them as high industrial or create a new zoning specifically for data centers

Slido Comments During First Visioning Town Hall

NO data centers in San Marcos. The sole benefit is investment. The what extent to which this investment stays within the community is uncertain. Investors can always leave. Alternatively, there could be an agglomeration effect, wherein San Marcos and the county gain an abundance of data centers, placing even greater strain on our natural resources. Additionally, data centers are not associated with quality job creation. These facilities produce very few jobs. However, the environmental degradation will stay. In high humidity and hot climates, the air will carry higher quantities of pollutants. Water remains a concern.
Water is life and water conservation comes before development. My family does NOT want to see data centers in our community. I also do NOT want to see law enforcement training expenses increase for anything unless they're related to de-escalation, domestic and sexual assault response training, mental
more sidewalks! i've seen families walking on the street along CM Allen on their way to the river or park; not safe at all for families with strollers to be on the street.
Increased public safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Bike lanes and sidewalks; from Moore St. to Old Ranch Rd where the San Marcos Cemetery is located needs a bike lane and sidewalk. I'm against the data centers being built, I think San Marcos and Central TX needs to protections put in place for our water supply and our rivers. The drought and low water rivers are increasingly threatening, action from our city
I'd like to see a very specific environmental sub-focus on our aquifers and groundwater. I'd also like to see strong focus on and support for the local small-business economy
Preserving culture history, affordable living, staying San Marcos, TX not texas state,tx
I'd like to see increased public safety in the form of improved bike lanes, increased sidewalks, and other protections for cyclists and pedestrians. I have a toddler and it can at times be stressful to walk around with her when sidewalks aren't always available. I'm truly uncertain how I'll be able to teach her to ride a

*Slido was only available during the first session due to internet connectivity.

Submission Date	Online Feedback Form - Please provide your vision and priorities for the City of San Marcos.
1/6/2026 14:28	Increased resources for our increasing population of human beings experiencing homelessness as well as increased educational opportunities for our community on how to approach, help and express empathy towards our fellow citizens.
1/6/2026 15:47	I want the city to continue to support bike lanes and green spaces with a prioritization on making the entire town accessible for bikes and pedestrians. Further, I appreciate and want a positive relationship with the multiple components of Texas State University. I would hope we could diversify our downtown and encourage multiple use of downtown and government spaces. Finally, we need to do more to limit water consumption as long term conservation needs to be a priority. Data centers exacerbate the water situation because of the energy they consume. The city needs to cooperate with local municipalities to save water and consume more renewable energy.
1/6/2026 21:40	Economic development with jobs aligned to local resident skills to benefit existing residents. Park improvements to get neighborhood parks up to high quality with true landscape architecture. Invest in real downtown improvements. Support housing diversity. Create high quality safe bicycle infrastructure that connects to key destinations and across I-35, especially Wonder World between Hunter And Hospital.
1/8/2026 10:19	1. Keep AI Data Centers away from San Marcos. 2. Encourage development of local, small business - where enterprising locals can fill local needs 3. Encourage local food production 4. Protect natural areas in San Marcos and surrounding 5. Protect river and recharge aquifer 6. Continue being proactive in terms of mitigating future traffic concerns BEFORE expected growth (learn from Austins mistakes)
1/9/2026 11:44	I am absolutely against any data center construction in the city. As a business owner in the city -- who tried to purchase property only to be told that I could not change the zoning in keeping with the city plan -- I am appalled that we are considering changing that same plan for a construction that would destroy the residential and business life for literally everyone else in the city. If we approve this plan it will be the beginning of the end not only for everyone who approved this plan's career, but for the entire community of San Marcos.
1/9/2026 20:49	NO DATA CENTERS!
1/10/2026 15:16	I hope that our leaders will make decisions based on maintainIng thr sustainability and longevity of San Marcos and it's lands. I am strongly against allowing AI data centers to be developed as they are detrimental to the health of San Marcos citizens and natural habitat. As a newer resident of San Marcos, I can only feel regret for making my decision to move here if the city moves forward it allowing data centers to be developed. I believe San Marcos can continue to be a wonderful place to live if thr city makes decisions based on community health and wellness rather than private monetary gain.
1/11/2026 0:54	Climate change, and drought. Are we ready for the upcoming catastrophes?
1/11/2026 18:36	I believe that the current Strategic Plan document would be better called a Vison document. It has goals with broad outcomes/strategies that very accurately captures what would be wonderful for our community. It appears to be very overarching, seeming to cover the operations of the City that most citizens find important - I know I do, My concern is how does this document get used for what the Council & staff want specifically to accomplish/prioritize with the available resources? Is the Budget policy statement and the Strategic Plan linked in any way? There are goal statements with desired outcomes and strategies. It looks like some of the outcomes and strategies are part of on-going city operations and should already be included the budget. Example: Quality of Life - Comprehensive Planning. Should outcomes/strategies that require a new or additional resource be highlighted? Should implemented outcomes be identified as on-going? When I look at the adopted 2026 Budget Policy Statement I don't see a connection to the Strategic Plan other than "Continue to allocate funding for City Council'strategic goals". Does Council agree on key strategic plan outcomes/strategies to fund? My comment would be that the Council should at least consider high level financial conditions during the Strategic Plan development.
1/11/2026 19:09	I grew up in San Marcos, and now am raising two children and operate a business in the downtown district. I have seen San Marcos go through many transformations over the last 40 years. First and foremost, the City of San Marcos should prioritize (1) protection of our most valuable resource - our water: the aquifer, the river, and controlled access to both. (2) a focused effort to improve and grow our downtown district to reflect a more balanced mix of businesses that not only include bars and vape shops, but also encourage the growth of local retail and restaurants so that our downtown can finally realize its potential as a "destination downtown." This includes prioritizing parking access for downtown businesses and working with the university to address the very real problem of college students dropping their cars downtown to attend class on campus. (3) Addressing the very real and very long-standing problem of unaffordable housing, driven in large part by the University's inability or unwillingness to provide adequate housing for its students, and in conjunction with the city's refusal to make San Marcos unattractive to predatory developers and rent-by-the-room apartment blocks.
1/13/2026 10:22	Wild life crossing to prevent car accidents with deer and protect wildlife while we are bulldozing through their safe habitats. This is the least we can do. No to data center in this region that doesn't have a reliable power grid, and already in drought condition. If you are okay with having such data centers might as well remove water restrictions for general public. Work for the people not for the corporations
1/13/2026 13:28	Increase availability/flexibility for youth to use afterschool from Jr and Senior High to get to work or programs in the central part of the community. Always remember to add real, assessable green spaces to the public as you develop any area. (otherwise, towns will be defined by a street as a boundary....in the future)

	To reiterate my comments from the meeting
	
	1. Continue to work towards a Tenants Bill of Rights
	2. Access and Transparency:
	a. Post DRAFT Agendas on City Website
	b. Clear Time stamped meetings minutes and vote record for boards, council
	c. Council Committee Reports during regular meeting
	i. Attendance, agendas, meetings posted more clearly
	d. Boards and Commission consistency
	i. Time, date, location not just on the agenda
	e. City Program Presentations posted online
	    i. University, Citizen Police and Fire Fighter Academy
	f. Campaigns and Conflicts of Interest
	    i. Allow Ethics Commissioners to file complaints and recuse themselves
	ii. City Attorney clearly identify conflicts of interest during meetings
	iii. Public posting of Ethics Commission decision
	g. Impacts of policy on the City Budget
	i. Payment in lieu of parkland
	ii. Consultants
	iii. Economic development 380 agreements
	3. Bicycle infrastructure and Safety
	4. City Staff and Policy and Outreach
	a. Turn outreach into reports shared with council to drive policy
	b. Presentations/events include previous citizen input
	c. Empower, dont just "explain away" our concerns
	5. Council Legislative Priorities
	a. Focus on Housing not the airport

1/13/2026 15:35	b. Fight policies that negatively impact our community vocally
1/13/2026 16:49	No data centers because air noise water problems
1/13/2026 17:05	I'm providing feedback regarding the zoning change that could allow John Mayberry to create a data center in San Marcos. Agreeing to the zoning change would create a domino effect allowing not only this but several other data centers to be built. Data centers have a long track record for damaging the land, making the water supply scarce, raising water costs for residents and destroying our precious river. This center will not create sustainable jobs and will only hurt us. Having followed the election campaign of everyone voting on this, I know all of you ran on protecting the river and our cities environment. It was the thing every single one of you promised. Now is your time to deliver on your promises to the people. Who will you listen to, the people who live here and elected you or a billionaire who will destroy your peoples livelihood and profit off it. This is the most important issue you will vote on while in office. This is the time to defend your town.

*Online form was available on the Community Town Halls website, social media post, and presentation.

Email received: 1/13/2026 (Comments were also shared and captured during the January 8 session)

To reiterate my comments from the meeting -

1. Continue to work towards a Tenants Bill of Rights
   a. Proactive Rental Inspection program
   b. Greg's "omnibus" renter's rights document (Shannon F., Civics Club, San Antonio)
2. Access and Transparency:
   a. Post DRAFT Agendas on City Website
   b. Clear Time stamped meetings minutes and vote record for boards, council
   c. Council Committee Reports during regular meeting
      i. Attendance, agendas, meetings posted more clearly
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3. Bicycle infrastructure and Safety
4. City Staff and Policy and Outreach
   a. Turn outreach into reports shared with council to drive policy
   b. Presentations/events include previous citizen input
   c. Empower, dont just "explain away" our concerns
5. Council Legislative Priorities
   a. Focus on Housing not the airport
   b. Fight policies that negatively impact our community vocally

Email Received: January 22, 2026 (Comments were also shared and captured in the January 15 session)
Council should consider meeting weekly to address the amount of work. If not now, is there a metric city's use to decide this?

Charge vacant lot fees to incentivize infill development, increase housing stock

Change/Clarify policy about process for developers being denied or failing to receive approval at p and z or Council. What is the restart time to come back, what does substantially different mean, etc.

Staff should answer questions AND call upon qualified experts, ie the lawyer shouldn't be the only one to answer questions about environmental regulations, code enforcement.
    *Staff should also answer questions about process with an emphasis on decision points, ie buckey's started at EDSM board seeking the incentive
    *Staff could make easy to read charts about these super common questions, infographic, process oriented things that tell them where to get involved.

Boards and Commissions should give presentations to Council on a regular basis

Budget impacts of the University on Police, Fire, EMS need to be calculated and partnerships to offset costs created

Impact of the LDC "Fee in lieu of Parkland" policy on the budget. One time payment from developer, for long term recurring costs to the city, and removal from the tax rolls when parkland is owned by city.

Update and show meaningful progress on TXST-SMTX bus merger.

Work with Non-profits through MOU and pursuing grant funding to support their volunteer work

When to spend down "Rainy day funds"? People know the city is sitting on reserve money, are things like needing to fund a whole new EMS system not serious enough to justify using these funds?

More public-private partnerships inspired by the office of innovation in San Antonio

See something say something for City Staff. Standing water in my neighborhood at MLK and Nance, Shady and Centre. both recently redone too…

This meeting was really great and felt like a lot of people shared real tangible concerns that the City can address. Staff did great fielding the questions and guiding the conversation! I did suggest that for future town halls, and other community conversations, that staff consider having folks with a show of hands weigh in on whether the issue someone brought up is something they agree with, to tally support for these issues and help staff better weigh priority. I look forward to seeing y'all at visioning, and learning how you intend to incorporate these concerns into your presentation to council!