

Alamo Public Meeting Question Summary

About the Cenotaph

Q: What is the reason for wanting to move the Cenotaph? What will be in the area?

The Cenotaph needs to be repaired and will always stand. The relocation is proposed in order to reclaim the historic mission foot print, clarify the periods of the mission development, and allow more educational programs and interpretation activities in the Plaza. The Cenotaph overpowers the space and limits flexibility to tell layers of stories in the very places they happened. The Alamo represents our 300 years of cultural history and the Plaza shall express multiple layers of our history - not be dominated by a monument that represents one point in history. Last year, the master plan proposed it be relocated to a location of one of the funeral pyres, which is said to be on the river and Market Street across from the Convention Center. Community feedback was that the proposed location was too far from the site. The design team looked at 4 other options and is recommending an option that sites the Cenotaph near the Alamo within a renewed Plaza de la Valero, to serve as a ceremonial centerpiece of a new civic space. The new location is 500 feet away and is oriented to focus on a view of the front of the church. The proposed improvements to the Plaza de Valero will create a sense of honor and dignity that the monument deserves.

Q: Why was the Cenotaph not put on the “must-have” list on the onset of planning?

The recommendation to relocate the Cenotaph was a result of the Master Plan, which was approved by the City and General Land Office in May 2017. The City Council action in May 2017 provided conceptual approval of the repair and relocation of the Cenotaph. The Comprehensive Interpretive Planning team was charged with recommending an appropriate location that keeps the Cenotaph within context.

Q: Whose money is being used to move the Cenotaph?

This has not been determined yet. Once a site plan is approved, specific funding allocations will be determined.

Q: Isn't it more cost-effective to leave the Cenotaph in place?

The internal structure of the Cenotaph needs repair, so it will be disassembled and repaired offsite. Reassembling the repaired Cenotaph nearby will not add significantly to the cost.

Q: What is being done now to protect the Cenotaph from people who climb on it for pictures?

San Antonio Park Police patrol Alamo Plaza and discourage inappropriate behavior. In the event that someone is found climbing on the Cenotaph, they are asked to get down.

Q: At the GOP Convention it was voted 5,651 to protect the Alamo and Cenotaph with only 391 against. How will this affect the Master Plan?

The Alamo project is subject to the decisions of the State Legislature, not the Republican Convention. Further, statewide surveys inform us that a vast majority of Texans support the critical design elements of the plan.

Q: Can this plan be done without moving the Cenotaph?

The relocation of the Cenotaph is necessary to implement the Master Plan that was approved by the City and the General Land Office which calls for reestablishing clarity and order through delineation of the historic footprint and recapturing the historic mission Plaza to create a sense of reverence and respect on the historic battlefield. To meet these requirements, the Cenotaph must be moved.

Q: Can multiple plans be presented for the Cenotaph to stay in its current location?

At this time, the site plan proposes to relocate the Cenotaph. The Alamo Master Plan Management Committee considered five options for the Cenotaph's relocation site and recommends the location in Plaza de Valero. The proposed location accommodates parade routes, allows for seating and reflection, provides sightlines to the Alamo Church, and serves as a centerpiece to an expanded Plaza de Valero. Other locations considered included the location of one of the funeral pyres, 1936 Garden, Alamo Street north of Commerce, and the current location of the Torch of Friendship.

Q: Why does the Cenotaph need to be moved to be repaired?

The Cenotaph needs repair. It will be disassembled so that when it is repaired it will continue to stand as a memorial to the Alamo Defenders.

Q: There are old legal documents that protect the Cenotaph. Are those just being ignored?

Over the last two years, City staff, working with the City Attorney's Office and outside consultants, have reviewed the history of Alamo Plaza, the Cenotaph and the surrounding streets and properties. This has included review of legislative history, statutes, ordinances and deed records for this area. Based upon that review, the City clearly has the ability to relocate the Cenotaph. If there are any conditions on moving the Cenotaph it is that the Cenotaph continue to honor the defenders of the Alamo. The Alamo Master Plan complies with that condition.

Q: What are the plans for the area the Cenotaph currently sits?

Relocation of the Cenotaph will allow for programming and living history demonstrations in Alamo Plaza and allow people to understand the mission spaces and the space where the Battle of the Alamo occurred. When the Treviño home is interpreted, understanding its relationship to the Church and Long Barrack is important, The six story tall Cenotaph which is 40 feet long compromises the ability to tell the story of the Alamo.

Q: Has the fate of the Cenotaph already been decided?

Right now, the site plan draft proposes to relocate the Cenotaph. This is in line with what was approved by San Antonio City Council and the Texas General Land Office in 2017. The decision will be made at some time in future.

Q: How do you plan to add names to the Cenotaph? Can they be added to a separate slab so as not to disturb the current placement of all names?

Research is being done to determine names of defenders who should have been included on the Cenotaph; best practices will be followed to address this issue. The Cenotaph has space to add another

row of names, the preference is that all Defenders have equal recognition for their sacrifice. Another option being explored is to build a companion piece that lists additional names.

Q: If the Cenotaph is moved, will the area around it be declassified as a designated and approved protest area?

Currently, there is no designated protest area. In the future, mission footprint portion of Alamo Plaza will be programmed daily, limiting opportunities for protests. However, with the closing of Alamo Street, Alamo Plaza outside the mission footprint will provide 3.5 acres of open space for a variety of uses, including free speech.

Q: The Cenotaph is on public ground, once relocated will that ground no longer be a public space?

Alamo Plaza will always be public space and accessible to the public, without charge, 24 hours per day.

Q: How can you move the Cenotaph when the deed requires the structure always be used as a memorial to honor?

Over the last two years, City staff, working with the City Attorney's Office and outside consultants, have reviewed the history of Alamo Plaza, the Cenotaph and the surrounding streets and properties. This has included review of legislative history, statutes, ordinances and deed records for this area. Based upon that review, the City clearly has the ability to relocate the Cenotaph. If there are any conditions on moving the Cenotaph it is that the Cenotaph continue to honor the defenders of the Alamo. The Alamo Master Plan complies with that condition.

Q: Aren't the Cenotaph and Alamo protected as National Historic Monuments?

The Alamo Church is a National Historic Landmark. The Cenotaph is listed as contributing in the Alamo Plaza National Register Historic District. The designation does not preclude the City from moving the Cenotaph.

About Financing

Q: How will this very expensive project be financed?

The Texas Legislature approved \$31.5 million in 2015 and \$75 million in 2017 for the restoration of the Alamo and redevelopment of the surrounding area. The City has committed \$38 million to the project to date. The 2012 Bond Program included \$1 million for improvements to the Alamo Plaza, and the FY 2016 and FY 2017 capital budget included \$16 million for the redevelopment of the Alamo Plaza and surrounding area. The 2017 bond program includes approximately \$21 million for construction of facilities in support of Alamo area improvements and street improvements identified in the Joint Master Plan. The Alamo Endowment, if this plan is approved, is committed to raising \$200 million in private funds for implementation.

Q: What funds specifically are being used for this project?

The Texas Legislature approved \$31.5 million in 2015 and \$75 million in 2017 for the restoration of the Alamo and redevelopment of the surrounding area. The City has committed \$38 million to the project to date. The 2012 Bond Program included \$1 million for improvements to the Alamo Plaza, and the FY 2016 and FY 2017 capital budget included \$16 million for the redevelopment of the Alamo Plaza and

surrounding area. The 2017 bond program includes approximately \$21 million for construction of facilities in support of Alamo area improvements and street improvements identified in the Joint Master Plan. The Alamo Endowment, if this plan is approved, is committed to raising \$200 million in private funds for implementation.

Q: What is the list of donors to this project?

Currently, there is not a list of donors. The Alamo Endowment will not start fundraising until a site plan for the project with identified projects has been approved.

Q: What funds have been spent on actual repair, restoration and design planning?

The GLO spent \$14.4 million to acquire the three buildings across from the Alamo.. The approximate costs of the Master Plan is \$5 million and the Interpretive Plan has cost \$1.5 million. Over \$2.5 million has been spent on deferred maintenance.

About the Alamo

Q: Will the parapet be removed?

No.

Q: When is the roof scheduled to be repaired or replaced?

Presuming this is referring to the Church room, it was repaired several years ago. It is checked every year and if any repairs are required, they are covered by a warranty.

Q: When will the Veramendi doors be returned to the Alamo shrine?

The Veramendi Palace Doors that were displayed on the east wall of the Alamo Church are awaiting conservation work to address mold found on the artifacts. The mold is believed to be caused by the high humidity levels inside the Church. They will be exhibited in the new museum where they can be in a proper environmentally controlled space.

Q: How will the back of the Alamo be secured if the back rock wall is removed?

A fence that is 8' in height will be integrated into plantings in the Garden.

Q: Why aren't you preserving and repairing the Alamo?

We have constantly been working at the preservation of the Church. A new contract for a large scale project will soon be awarded. Repair and restoration of the Church and Long Barrack is the highest priority.

Q: Is there anything in the plan about taking off the roof that was added on?

This will be the subject of the upcoming preservation study.

Q: Are you moving the cannons at Juarez Plaza at La Villita to Alamo Plaza?

This is currently under consideration. If approved, they would be sent to Texas A&M's conservation labs and then returned for exhibit with the other Alamo cannons.

Q: What is the status of the cannons that were removed from the site?

They were sent to Texas A&M for conservation and are being returned to the Alamo where they are on display with new labels which give more information about the cannons.

Q: Will the Alamo have the Confederate regiment flag back on display?

The only Confederate era flag in the Alamo's collection is the Alamo City Guards flag. This flag was a gift from Mrs. Burt was the daughter of Capt. William M. Edgar, commanding officer of Alamo City Guards, organized in 1860, in San Antonio. Ladies of the city made a flag of blue silk centered w / white star, edged w / fringe, w / motto (in Latin), "Let justice be done though the heavens should fall), applied across top; the company name was applied across the bottom. "The bonnie blue flag" was the company's affectionate name for it.

The flag is made out of silk and is very fragile. Currently there is no suitable exhibit space to display such a large and fragile flag. This flag would be exhibited in the future new museum which is part of the plan. However, it would not be on permanent exhibit due to its fragile condition.

About the Buildings to the East and West

Q: Where will all of the tourist stores be moved to?

The City of San Antonio is working with business owners to develop an entertainment district nearby.

Q: What will be the fate of firehall, museum and other buildings?

The Master Plan called for removing the support facilities and replacing with modern facilities. We know there is a great need for additional restrooms, school education tour support, maintenance and security facilities and the ability to support special catering events. There have been no decisions on further needs and this will be influenced by the final outcome of the current plan.

About the Proposed Street Closures – Gene Dawson to Review

Q: Losoya is currently difficult to navigate due to deliver trucks – what is the plan to accommodate the traffic and deliveries if Losoya is to become two ways?

Losoya Street is currently one way with 2 south bound lanes. The plan is to make Losoya Street two-ways with one north bound lane and 2 south bound lanes. The traffic study supports the conversion to two-way and shows that there is capacity for the traffic. A comprehensive traffic plan to address deliveries, taxis, valet parking from the Hyatt Regency, and other vehicular traffic is currently being developed.

Q: How do you reactivate Houston St. if you close half the street?

An improved Alamo Plaza will reactivate Houston Street and further strengthen activity on its eastern end. The proposed site plan provides pedestrian access to and from the Plaza off of Houston Street. In the event access is closed for programming and events, pedestrians can walk around the railing to continue east on Houston Street and access the Federal Court House and the Emily Morgan.

Q: Where is the traffic study?

The traffic study is attached. A simulation model is under development and will be presented at future public meetings.

Q: Why not just close the street and allow it to be temporarily opened for the parades?

The proposed site plan reclaims the Historic Mission Plaza and the battlefield and removes the street from the site to unify the Alamo Plaza. Currently, cars drive over the battlefield and over burials. The removal of the street helps us reestablish reverence and allows for more activation at the site. The site plan also reduces the grade of the Alamo Plaza by 16-22 inches which also accommodates seating and shade around the Alamo Plaza which was a criticism of the Master Plan that was approved last year.

About the Site Plan

Q: If the idea is to create a more reverent and respectful atmosphere around the Alamo, then why was March Madness held on the grounds?

March Madness activities were not held on the grounds. Activities were set up just south of what would have been the South Gate. .

Q: Gates? Thought the guiding principle was to keep it accessible to all – why limiting?

One of the Guiding Principles is to embrace intellectual, experiential and physical accessibility. In the proposed site plan, Alamo Plaza will always be open and accessible to the public 24 hours per day and will be ADA accessible. The plan must balance public access with programming and security needs, so the current recommendation is to provide access to Alamo Plaza through designated entry points during museum hours. However, it will always be free and accessible to the public.

Q: What is the security plan for the site if it is open 24/7 – how will it be protected?

A security plan will be developed once a site plan is finalized.

Q: What about emphasizing the religious and faith-based significance of the site over history?

The Vision for the Alamo Area includes:

- Include and interpret the diverse cultures that contributed to the story of the Alamo area through meaningful and memorable experiences for visitors.
- Tell the in-depth history of the Alamo area to the present day as a tribute to all who lived, fought, and died there.

One of the Guiding Principles is to embrace the continuum of history to foster understanding and healing.

The Vision and Guiding Principles served as the foundation for the Master Plan, and now for the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan. The religious and faith-based significance of the site will be interpreted in different ways throughout the site and in the museum.

Q: How are you making this a historic site in the Plaza?

Alamo Plaza was the center of the historic Mission San Antonio de Valero and later the 13-day siege and battle of 1836. It has always been a significant place. The proposed plan will highlight and interpret the Plaza's historic significance in many ways.

Q: Will you build the main gate at the south wall?

A number of design options are currently being considered, but all aim to convey the story of the main gate over the Alamo's history.

Q: Are you following to the letter the expectations of the legislature to focus on the 13-day siege and battle?

Yes, the legislature has been kept fully informed about the plans.

Q: Does the City of San Antonio have a legal deed to the Alamo and the Plaza?

Alamo Plaza is owned by the City of San Antonio. The Alamo Church, Long Barrack, gift shop, Alamo Hall, and 1936 garden are owned by the state of Texas.

Q: Will the City or State own Alamo Plaza when this plan is complete?

The City of San Antonio owns Alamo Plaza. When the plan is complete, the Alamo will manage the Plaza and provide daily activities and living history demonstrations as part of the museum programming. This will take place through a long term license agreement or other operating agreement.

Q: Won't digging to plant new trees disturb the existing archaeological material?

Archaeological investigations will take place to help determine exact placement of new trees and avoid damaging archaeological material.

Q: Have you planned layout to ensure no shadow falls across the face of the Alamo at sunset?

Yes, no shadows will cast on the Alamo as a result of this development.

Q: Why the half glass walls? Why not half walls that are more conducive to the time period?

The design proposes low railings to protect pedestrians from a 16" drop. Materials have not yet been determined. However, the best practice is to use materials that clearly differentiate new construction from historic fabric in order to avoid confusion.

Q: Why don't you use period materials to delineate Alamo boundaries?

Materials to be used in Alamo Plaza have not yet been determined. However, the best practice is to use materials that clearly differentiate new construction from historic fabric in order to avoid confusion.

Q: Will the Alamo Rangers still be employed?

Yes.

Q: Why don't you close all the carnival businesses across from the sacred site of the Battle of the Alamo?

The City of San Antonio and Texas General Land Office are working with the business owners on Alamo Plaza to relocate them.

Q: Where will new entertainment area be located for the Ripley's and other arcade-type businesses that will be displaced?

The City of San Antonio and Texas General Land Office continue to work with the business owners on Alamo Plaza to relocate them. Plans will be announced at a later date.

Q: Will the current Riverwalk access stairs by the Losoya statue still be there?

The Paseo del Alamo may be redesigned as part of this plan, but Riverwalk access will be retained.

Q: Is it necessary to have that much shaded area?

Community feedback during the Master Plan phase was that there should be more shade in Alamo Plaza. The proposed plan adds more trees to Alamo Plaza. Shade is important to provide a comfortable experience for users of both plazas, to encourage longer stays, and to invite return visits at all times of day throughout all four seasons.

Q: Why the extra trees if you want to copy/follow the footprint?

Additional trees in Alamo Plaza provide much needed shade for users of the Plaza. They also serve as a screen of taller buildings surrounding the site, which helps to recapture the historic Mission Plaza and create a sense of reverence and respect on the historic battlefield, one of the key concepts of the Master Plan.

Q: The 1976 Alamo Plaza was entered into the National Historic Registry – does that come into play?

The Alamo Plaza Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which is an honorific designation. Since the Plaza is listed in the National Register and publically owned, it is subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas, which requires that the Texas Historical Commission have the ability to comment on any changes. Changes to the plaza must also be reviewed and approved by the San Antonio Historic and Design Review Commission.

Q: What kind of trees are shown in the renderings?

Specific species of trees have not been determined. Trees selected will be appropriate to the site's interpretation and climate.

Q: In regards to the plan to lower the battlefield - have there been studies done on flooding in the area?

Drainage and overall hydrology of the area will be resolved in the future phase of design.

Q: What is the plan for flood mitigation?

Drainage and overall hydrology of the area will be resolved in the future phase of design.

Q: Can this plan be accomplished with augmented reality?

Augmented reality may be an option to aid in interpretation of the site. This will be considered during planning of the museum exhibits.

Q: How do you plan to keep birds from pooping on the grounds?

Bird control is not an issue that was included within the Master Plan or current Interpretive Plan efforts. Birds will continue to poop on the grounds. However, the grounds of the Alamo will be maintained to the highest standards.

Q: Who will pay to have all the landscaped gardens irrigated and watered during the Texas summers?

The State of Texas will continue to maintain the 1936 garden to the east of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack. The City of San Antonio will continue to own and maintain Alamo Plaza. .

Q: When did the Alamo lose its reverence?

The Alamo continues to be a reverent place for many but the behavior of some is very disruptive to fully comprehend the important historic events which took place on this site. The Master Plan proposes to enhance this experience by providing clarity and order through delineation of the historic footprint; recapturing the Historic Mission Plaza and creating a sense of reverence and respect on the historic battlefield.

Q: How are you going to let the handicapped and mobility challenged enjoy the Alamo?

The site will be ADA accessible and more accessible than it is today. One of the Guiding Principles of the Master Plan is to embrace intellectual, experiential and physical accessibility. When the Master Plan is complete, the site will be more accessible than it is today.

Q: Are the bistro tables and chairs going to be removed and set up each day even with 24 hour access?

The bistro tables and chairs depicted in the renderings shown are far from the Cenotaph along Alamo and Houston Streets. Their hours and placement will be determined by the individual businesses and their sidewalk permit with the City.

Q: Does the city have in their possession a legal land deed to the Alamo, the plaza and the Cenotaph?

Alamo Plaza and the Cenotaph are owned by the City of San Antonio. The Alamo Church, Long Barrack, gift shop, Alamo Hall, and 1936 garden are owned by the state of Texas.

Q: What will become of the mosaic of the Alamo by the stairs of the Riverwalk?

Depending on the final site plan, the mosaic may be preserved in place or relocated.

Q: What are the boundaries of the Alamo area included in the World Heritage designation?

The boundaries of the UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for Mission Valero are Houston Street to the north, Bonham Street to the east, Crockett Street to the south, and Alamo Plaza to the west. A larger buffer zone area around all five missions includes Alamo Plaza and much of downtown San Antonio.

Q: Where are the entrances to Alamo Plaza from the North side (Houston St.)?

Alamo Plaza will be accessible coming from the east or west along Houston Street.

Q: How will the Riverwalk be affected if the buildings are torn down?

There will be a period of construction to enhance Riverwalk connections to the Alamo, but construction and potential demolition of buildings will not have a significant impact on the Riverwalk.

Q: Why has this plan deviated from the original plan to reclaim and restore the Alamo?

On May 11, 2017, City Council approved the Alamo Master Plan, which consists of five key concepts:

1. Restoration of the Church and Long Barrack;
2. Reestablish clarity and order through the delineation of the historic footprint;
3. Recapture the Historic Mission Plaza and create a sense of reverence and respect on the historic battlefield;
4. Repurpose the Crockett Block, Woolworth and Palace buildings into a world-class visitor center and museum that tells the story of the Battle of the Alamo and over 300 years of layered history; and
5. Create a sense of arrival to the site and enhance connectivity between the site and other public spaces.

This site plan and comprehensive interpretive plan continue to build on these key concepts and propose to reestablish clarity and order and to recapture the historic Mission Plaza. Restoration of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack will be coordinated by the Texas General Land Office. They are in the process of selecting firms to complete the work.

Q: The Alamo is sacred ground – why make it an event destination?

The Alamo will always remain sacred ground. Events held at the Alamo will be associated with the site's history. In the future, many other events may be accommodated in the expanded 3.5 acre Plaza de Valero.

Q: Who is the specialist on the Alamo Plaza sacred Indian burials?

City Archaeologist Kay Hinds has been involved in development of the Master Plan, as well as archaeologists with Pape-Dawson Engineers. Ramon Vasquez, Executive Director of American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions has served on the Alamo Citizen Advisory Committee since 2014.

Q: Can removing the old trees and garden behind the Alamo be reconsidered?

The plan proposes to retain the garden and many of the trees behind the Alamo.

About the Proposed Museum

Q: How is the battle interpreted for visitors who come to Alamo Plaza?

The battle will be interpreted through engaging exhibits at key historic locations throughout the plaza. Designs for this interpretation will be developed in future project stages. There will also be a theatre where an introductory film can be shown, interactive exhibits will be in the museum featuring the Phil Collins Collection and there will be special education areas for school groups. Also, the museum will look out at the mission footprint where the battle occurred and people can look at the actual space

where history was made. Augmented Reality (AR) may also be incorporated into the museum and the site so people can visually see battle as it unfolded.

Q: How will you bring forth the heroic stories of each and every individual fighter, combatant and all those whose stories created these famous events?

Stories of individuals will be told through the exhibits in the museum as well as education programs.

Q: How will you bring forth the rich indigenous world heritage that in the past has been denied by the State of Texas?

The plan will incorporate special delineation of some the known burial sites. We are working with local indigenous people organizations to make sure this history is known and told to the public.

Q: Has the old courthouse been explored to become a museum and interpretive theater?

Yes. However, it is not an option for consideration. Even if it were, it would not only be more expensive than the current museum, it would also cost more to operate and would delay the project.

Q: Can the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas secure a “deal” for the old federal building/post office once the new larger federal courthouse is built?

There has been no indication that it would be available for this purpose.

Q: Will the museum recognize the Alamo’s roll as a confederate fort and supply depot during the Civil War?

The Alamo has always talked about the entire history of the Alamo including being a Confederate Fort and Supply Depot. Today there is an exhibition titled, “Fortress Alamo” which includes this history.

About the Project

Q: Why is the architecture firm presenting the Interpretive Plan not from Texas?

When firms were sought to do this work, specific efforts were made to include Texas firms. There are not any Texas based museum exhibition firms large enough to take on this type of project. All Texas based museum exhibition firms were sent a notice of the project. The selection must be from firms which respond to the State Bidding RFQ. No Texas firm responded.

Q: Why not put this to a vote so the people of Texas can decide?

This is a decision to be made by the Texas Legislature and they believe the project is needed to do what is right for the Alamo.

Q: Why do City officials have greater input than any other citizen, voter or taxpayer?

The process has been transparent and it is a partnership among the City, General Land Office, and Alamo Endowment. The Alamo Master Plan Management Committee is comprised of two representatives each from the City of San Antonio, Texas General Land Office, and Alamo Endowment. The Alamo Citizen Advisory Committee (ACAC) will continue to provide feedback on the plan before

recommending it proceed to City Council for a vote. The ACAC meetings are open to the public and there will be additional public meetings to collect feedback. The feedback from both the ACAC and public meetings is provided to the design team and Alamo Management Committee for their consideration.

Q: Who specifically in the Texas Land Commission did the City of San Antonio contact regarding this project?

The GLO has had a representative on the Alamo Plaza Citizen's Advisory Committee since 2014 when Jerry Patterson was Texas Land Commissioner. The GLO, under Commissioner Patterson also supported the World Heritage Site nomination of all the San Antonio Missions.

The project is a result of a strong partnership and both the City and the GLO have worked on their own efforts as it pertains to the Alamo. This is the first time that a master plan has been done jointly. This partnership was formalized in a Cooperative Agreement that was approved by City Council, General Land Office, and Alamo Endowment in October 2015. Additionally, the Cooperative Agreement established the Alamo Management Committee, recognized the Alamo Citizens Advisory Committee as the community input body for the Alamo Master Plan and Site Plan, and accepted the Vision and Guiding Principles developed by the Alamo Citizens Advisory Committee in 2014.

Q: Why not put the plan aside and just repair what needs to be repaired?

The Alamo and Alamo Plaza must be improved. The site must be improved for the benefit of the San Antonio residents and also to educate the world on the site's complex and layered history.

Q: If the bond package that was passed in 2017 is not utilized for this project will those funds be allocated to other important projects like road repairs?

The citizen approved 2017 Bond Program included \$21 million for improvements within Alamo Plaza and the area streets as identified in the Alamo Master Plan. This funding cannot be used for any other types of improvements.

Q: Is this for political reasons?

The story of the Texas Revolution and the Alamo has always been about politics and self-determination. Doing right by the Alamo and implementing the five key concepts of the Master Plan has broad bipartisan support.

Q: When were the citizens of San Antonio allowed to vote on this issue?

The 2017 Bond Program included funding for the Alamo Project in two separate propositions and both received overwhelming support.

Q: Where are the damage assessment reports posted online for citizens to read?

All reports are a public record. The Master Plan which includes the Church assessment reports is 7 Terabytes in size and therefore not conducive to putting online. However, it is a public record and has been provided to people who request it.

Q: How will Texas benefit from this project?

The Alamo will be preserved for future generations and the history of those who lived, fought and died here will be told in a more effective way so people understand the site and its rich history.

Q: Will the San Antonio City Council profit from this project?

City Council will not profit from this project. The City of San Antonio will benefit from this project because the Alamo will be preserved for future generations and the history of those who lived, fought and died here will be told in a more effective way so people understand the site and its rich history. Pedestrian connections surrounding the Alamo will be enhanced and Plaza de Valero will be an expanded civic space for San Antonio residents. The museum development will also catalyze future downtown development, commerce, housing, tourism as well as state and local taxes.

Q: Why are there no urban planners on the design team?

The design team has some of the most highly regarded urban planners in the United States. The Master Plan had Mario Schjetnan an internationally renowned urban planner from Mexico City on the team .

The design lead is Douglas Reed, his qualifications and background follow:

Doug Reed FASLA RAAR

A Founding Principal and Partner of Reed Hilderbrand, Douglas Reed is recognized nationally for design leadership and for his tireless advocacy of culturally significant landscapes. Through his diverse projects and non-profit work, he passionately promotes the wise and creative treatment of our cultural patrimony. Known for his cultivated eye and relentless focus on contemporary design expression, Reed garnered broad critical acclaim two decades ago for the innovative Therapeutic Garden at the Institute for Child and Adolescent Development. That project received the President's Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Reed is a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 2011 he was recognized as a Resident of the American Academy in Rome. He was selected in 2005, with Gary Hilderbrand, for the Emerging Voices program of the Architectural League of New York City, and for the Thaler Memorial Lectureship at the University of Virginia in 2013. He lectures widely and participates as a critic on reviews for design schools nationwide. He co-authored the firm's 2012 monograph, Visible | Invisible, which received the ASLA's Award of Excellence in Communication.

A committed urbanist, Doug sees the designed landscape as essential to civilizing cities. He has successfully positioned select urban commissions into larger agendas to accelerate revitalization efforts within the metropolis—most recently in Houston, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For the last six years he has participated on the Ohio State University Design Review Board, reviewing a vast range of projects for the development and expansion of the campus.

Doug Reed is a founding board member of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, an influential non-profit dedicated to supporting and safeguarding the nation's cultural land resources and designed landscapes. As TCLF's Board Co-Chair for 13 years, he has consistently shaped a platform for that organization's programs that delivers knowledge about design heritage and how it matters in people's everyday lives.

Q: How will the feedback from these meetings be implemented?

The public feedback will be presented to the Alamo Citizens Advisory Committee, Alamo Management Committee, and Alamo Executive Committee. It will be reviewed and considered by the Management Committee when considering any modifications to the site plan.

Q: Will public meeting feedback be taken to the Alamo Citizen Advisory Committee?

Yes.

Q: Can we go to a site to get names of speakers and copies of presentation slides?

Yes.

Q: Why was the format changed? From verbal comments from the public to digital messaging?

The format was not changed. The format of the public hearings was developed to maximize the amount of public input for the site plan. The format allowed the City to collect 3 times the amount of input that would have been collected during a citizens to be heard format.