

SA Connect Glossary of Terms

2012 Bond Projects

Public projects in the City of San Antonio funded through its 2012-2017 Bond Program.

Access

Approaches to stipulated infrastructure amenities: for SA Connect this means the presence of those infrastructure amenities within the half mile grid square.

Alternative Liquid Fuel

Liquefied petroleum gas (propane), compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied hydrogen, liquid hydrocarbons derived from biomass, and P-Series fuels.

Aquifer

An underground layer of rock or sand that can absorb and hold potable water.

Aquifer Compatible

The ability for a business to exist within a designated aquifer zone. In effort to protect and prevent the pollution of the Edwards Aquifer and to preserve existing and potential groundwater use, the EAA regulates the storage of regulated substances on the recharge zone and the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer. Facilities in these environmentally sensitive areas are required to register with the EAA if they store an aggregate quantity exceeding 1,000 gallons or 10,000 pounds of regulated substances in containers 55-gallons or less in size. Underground storage tanks are not permitted in the Recharge Zone.

Artesian Zone

A zone in which water flows from the aquifer to the surface without the necessity of pumps. The Edwards Aquifer is divided into three main zones: the contributing zone, the recharge zone, and the artesian zone. The artesian zone of the Edwards is confined between two relatively impermeable formations - the Glen Rose formation below and the Del Rio clay on top. The weight of new water entering the Aquifer in the recharge zone puts pressure on water that is already deeper down in the formation. Flowing artesian wells and springs exist where hydraulic pressure is sufficient to force water up through wells and faults to the surface.

Aviation Noise Level Contours

Noise contours highlight existing or potential areas of significant aircraft noise exposure (as defined by the FAA). They are used to assess the relative aircraft noise exposure levels of different runway and/or flight corridor alternatives; and provide guidance to political jurisdictions in the development of land use control measures. These measures include zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, and airport overlay zones.

The boundaries determined by the level of noise emitted by aviation facilities within that area; each contour is drawn for that particular noise level threshold (65 decibels, 70 decibels or 75 decibels). It is the areas within the 65, 70, and 75 DNL noise contours that the FAA considers to be the most impacted by aircraft generated noise.

Bicycle Route

Signed routes are identified on roadways where bicyclists can be served by sharing the travel lanes with motor vehicles. Usually, these are local streets with relatively low traffic volumes and/ or low speeds, which do not need special bicycle accommodations in order to be bicycle-friendly.

Bicycle Shoulders

Appropriated areas on the roadways that include a demarcated area for bicyclists to travel without having to share with other multimodal drivers; these are wide, striped, and bikable shoulders provided to create lateral separation between automobiles and bicycles, they provide additional clear zone and recovery areas for vehicles, and provide an additional buffer or space for pedestrians in rural areas where sidewalks may not exist.

Broadband Transmittal Technology

Technology used for transmitting broadband access, these can either in the ground technology such as be copper (DSL lines), fiber optic cable or phone lines used for dial-up; or satellite reception.

Building Query

A systematic algorithm that allows the user to ask a question of the geographic information presented. For SA Connect the Query is divided into three main categories (1) the infrastructure query, (2) the property query and (3) the building query.

The SA Connect tool allowing the user to stipulate specific criteria needed for site selection for user prospective business(es) including zoning, building area, and a range of values. Note: value data comes from the appraised value for property taxes and does not denote actual selling price or leasing price of the building. Rather this query is intended to allow users to familiarize themselves with the areas of town that are likely to meet their criteria for a business.

Central Business District

A set of boundaries denoting the commercial and business center of the city

Chilled Water

A separate utility system in downtown San Antonio for the purpose of cooling buildings and equipment; specifically for the buildings in and around HemisFair Park.

Contributing Zone (Aquifer)

Edwards Aquifer is divided into three main zones: the contributing zone, the recharge zone, and the artesian zone. The contributing zone occurs on the Edwards Plateau, north of San Antonio, also called the Texas Hill Country. The contributing zone is also called the drainage area or the catchment area. Here the land surface "catches" water from rainfall that averages about 30" per year, and water runs off into streams or infiltrates into the water table of the Edwards aquifer.

Community Garden

A single piece of land gardened by a collective group of people. SA Connect has identified the location of these community gardens. In order to participate or to take advantage of the provisions of the community gardens, interested parties should contact the garden organizers directly.

Crude Oil

Naturally occurring unrefined petroleum, which can be refined into useable products such as gasoline, diesel etc.

Download Speed

A measure of performance of an internet connection as determined by the amount of time it takes for a computer to retrieve information from the Internet, measured in megabytes per second.

Drainage Zone

A portion of the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer, where the land surface "catches" water from rainfall and from which water runs off into streams or infiltrates into the water table of the Edwards aquifer. Runoff from precipitation and other sources feed streams that flow over relatively impermeable limestone until it reaches the recharge zone.

Edwards Aquifer

The Edwards Aquifer is one of the largest karst aquifers in the world. Located in South Central Texas, the Edwards Aquifer extends into 11 counties and is the primary water source for San Antonio and several other communities. The Edwards is between 300-700 feet thick; including the Edwards and some associated limestone.

Electric Capacity

A measurement method in which electric availability is divided into single phase or three phase. Single Phase –all voltages of the supply vary in unison, this is usually appropriate when the uses are mostly lighting and heating with few large electric motors

Three Phase - a common method of alternating-current electric power generation, transmission, and distribution. It is a type of polyphase system and is the most common method used by electrical grids worldwide to transfer power. It is also used to power large motors and other heavy loads.

Flood hazard Areas

An area with a special flood or mudflow, and/or flood related erosion hazard, as shown on a flood hazard boundary map or flood insurance rate map.

Freight

The ability to transport goods transported by truck, train, ship, or aircraft.

Future Local Alternatives (Transportation)

Plans for the city of San Antonio to offer alternatives to driving for commuters, this includes the cps addition of rapid transit bus routes and passenger rail.

Future Rail Zones

Proposed passenger rail zones for Lone Star rail (a proposed commuter rail line extending from San Antonio to Austin),

Greenway Trails

Strips of undeveloped land near an urban area set aside for recreational use or environmental protection; by the City of San Antonio: the Greenway Trail System is an innovative project in which the city of San Antonio capitalized on the opportunity to utilize the creek systems in the area, and transformed them into a series linear parks and trails. Currently there are 52.6 miles of developed greenway trails.

Hazardous Materials Route

Roadways designated for transporting hazardous materials. Hazardous materials are defined as any item or agent (biological, chemical, radiological, and/or physical), which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors.

Historic District

Group of buildings, properties, or sites that have been designated by one of several entities on different levels as historically or architecturally significant.

Infrastructure

The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g., buildings, roads, and power supplies) needed for the operation of the city

Infrastructure Query

A systematic algorithm that allows the user to ask a question of the geographic information presented. For SA Connect the Query is divided into three main categories (1) the infrastructure query, (2) the property query and (3) the building query.

The Infrastructure Query was designed for businesses allowing them to stipulate criteria regarding the infrastructure needed to operate their businesses. These criteria include: (1) the required capacity for electricity, fuel lines, water lines and storm sewer, (2) access to transportation amenities such as highways, bus routes, freight and bicycle routes, (3) broadband maximum download speed, and (4) access to a public park.

Inner City Reinvestment Infill Policy Map Area

The Inner City Reinvestment and Infill Policy establishes priority areas in the city targeted for private reinvestment. The intent of the policy is to coordinate and prioritize public incentives in these areas to stimulate and facilitate private investment. Such incentives include financial assistance, such as fee waivers and tax abatements for eligible projects, and staff support for assistance in navigating regulatory and procedural obstacles which sometimes serve as a hindrance to infill development.

Intercity Bus Terminal

Locations of the terminals of the intercity bus companies offering transit services from San Antonio to other major cities in the US and in Mexico. In San Antonio, specifically, these are Greyhound, Megabus and Turimex.

Intercity Passenger Rail

Prospective rail stops for the proposed Lone Star passenger rail.

Kilovolts

A unit of electromotive force, equal to 1000 volts.

Layer

Geographic Information System (GIS) data is divided into layers which overlap to create a map. Layers can be point data, line data, or polygon data. In order to customize a map, a user will turn layers (depicting various types infrastructure or other geographic area) on or off.

Layer List

The comprehensive list of all of the geographic information system (GIS) data made available on SA Connect.

Lone Star Stations

Potential stations for proposed passenger rail stops from San Antonio to Austin.

Mainline

Chief railroad line.

Maintenance/Rehabilitation (Roadway)

Roads are exposed to tremendous loads that will sooner or later leave their marks on them; eventually every road will be in need of a general overhaul. This layer identifies the roads in which funds have been allocated for rehabilitation within the next five years.

Megawatts

A unit of power equal to one million watts, especially as a measure of the output of a power station.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The 20 year transportation plan generated by the local Alamo Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization; it includes roadway maintenance, expansions, construction of new plans, freight planning, and demonstration of integration of non vehicular forms of travel.

MPO

A metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is a federally mandated, and federally funded, transportation policy-making organization in the United States that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities.

Maximum Advertised Download Speed

A measure of performance of an internet connection as determined by the amount of time it takes for a computer to retrieve information from the Internet, measured in megabytes per second. While there are no guarantees that patrons within these service areas do in fact receive service at this speed, the reliability is sufficient enough for providers to advertise that particular download speed as available within that area.

Military Airport Overlay Zone

Overlay district that imposes restrictions on uses surrounding the military airports in order to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of military airport environs and to prevent the impairment of military airfields and the public investment therein.

Military Lighting Overlay Zone

Overlay district that establishes regulations for outdoor lighting impacting military operations within five (5) miles of the perimeter of Camp Bullis/Camp Stanley, Randolph Air Force Base, and Lackland Air Force Base.

Mission Protection Overlay District

Overlay district that imposes additional height and design regulations in the vicinity of the historic San Antonio Missions.

Major Arterial Road

A high-capacity urban road. The primary function of an arterial road is to deliver traffic from collector roads to freeways or expressways, and between urban centers at the highest level of service possible.

Natural Gas Capacity

Transmittal of natural gas for SA Connect must be stipulated in pounds per square inch (PSI).

Operational Layer

Half mile grid squares of candidate locations that meet the criteria the user stipulated in the query.

Other Cities and Towns

The municipal boundaries within the city of San Antonio are noncontiguous. Within and surrounding the outer perimeter of the San Antonio city boundary are other cities and towns that are legally incorporated. These cities have their own jurisdictional boundaries, many of which have their own fire departments, police departments, city managers etc.

Park and Ride

A system for reducing urban traffic congestion, in which drivers leave their cars in parking lots on the outskirts of a city and travel to the city center on public transportation.

Passenger Facilities

Transit centers owned by VIA that allow for interconnectivity between VIA passengers and public or private entities offering their own shuttle service.

Potable Water

Water that has been examined, properly treated, and approved by appropriate authorities as being safe for consumption.

Property Query

A systematic algorithm that allows the user to ask a question of the geographic information presented. For SA Connect the Query is divided into three main categories (1) the infrastructure query, (2) the property query and (3) the building query.

The property search query allows the user to stipulate the zoning required for their business, identify the parameters of the property such as size and the range of property value. Note this is different from the actual selling price of the property and this query does not allow the user to identify properties for sale that meet that selection criteria, rather this query is intended to allow the user to familiarize themselves with the areas of town that are likely to meet their criteria for a business.

Provider

Entity that provides that particular infrastructure service (broadband, water, electricity, transportation etc...)

Provider Density (Broadband)

The number of broadband providers within a given half mile grid square.

Query

A systematic algorithm that allows the user to ask a question of the geographic information presented. For SA Connect the Query is divided into three main categories (1) the infrastructure query, (2) the property query and (3) the building query.

Recharge Zone

The Edwards Aquifer is divided into three main zones: the contributing zone, the recharge zone, and the artesian zone. The recharge zone is a 1,250 square mile area where highly faulted and fractured Edwards limestone is outcropping at the land surface, allowing water to flow into the Aquifer. In the recharge zone, there are no other rock formations overlying the Edwards - it is exposed at the surface, such that the Aquifer is geologically "unconfined" and has a water table that rises and falls in response to rainfall.

Recycled Water

Waste water that has been saved and treated. It is not intended for drinking purposes, but can be used in some commercial and industrial applications. Water intensive industries such as

factories, golf courses, and athletic complexes can utilize this resource reducing their usage of potable water while still conducting business as usual.

Refined Products

End products derived from crude oil through processes such as catalytic cracking and fractional distillation. Refining is a necessary step before oil can be burned as fuel or used to create end products

Runway Protection Zone

A two-dimensional trapezoidal area centered along the extended runway centerline whose function is to enhance the protection of people and property on the ground.

Service Area

The boundary area defined by the availability of services from utility companies: for SA Connect the service areas are CPS energy, SAWS, SARA and various broadband providers.

Spatial

For SA Connect, this means geographic data.

Spatial Filter (inactive)

An ESRI Tool that allows the user to further restrict their query searches to a predefined geographic area.

Stakeholder

Persons with a vested interest in SA Connect, particularly entities with their own Geographic Information Systems Departments who have generated the primary data that is being showcased by SA Connect.

Storm Sewer

A sewer built to carry away excess water in times of heavy rain

Substations (Electric)

Part of an electrical generation, transmission, and distribution system. Substations transform voltage from high to low, or the reverse, or perform any of several other important functions. Between the generating station and consumer, electric power may flow through several substations at different voltage levels.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone

A political subdivision of a municipality or county in the state of Texas created to implement tax increment financing. They may be initiated by the city or county or by petition of owners whose total holdings in the zone consist of a majority of the appraised property value.

Transportation Improvement Plan

Five year plan generated by the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization that includes such things as roadway maintenance and roadway expansions, these are plans in which federal funds have already been allocated for immediate improvements.

Trailheads

The place where trails begin, these are trails maintained by the city of Antonio for public hiking and biking.

Transit

Public transportation systems (for SA Connect these are VIA and Lonestar rail) that provide transportation commuting services along fixed routes for a fee.

Transition Zone (Edwards Aquifer)

A thin strip of land south and southeast of the recharge zone between San Antonio and Austin where limestone that overlies the Edwards formation is faulted and fractured and has caves and sinkholes, so it is possible that surface water can still go into the Edwards limestone below. This area is called the transition zone.

Transmittal Technology

(see Broadband Transmittal Technology)

Transportation and Capital Improvements

Division of the City of San Antonio that oversees and allocates funds both to existing and new infrastructure improvements in the city of San Antonio.

Vehicle Count

The number of vehicles passing a given location per day.

Y Grade Products

A mixture of constituents or component products of natural gas liquids (NGLs) composed principally of ethane, propane, butane and natural gasolines, meeting certain product specifications.

Zoning

A comprehensive method by which local governments, specifically the city of San Antonio, restricts the physical development and use of specific parcels of land. A parcel of land is best described as a piece or an area of land that is zoned for a designated purpose.