ACCESSIBILITY

ASSESSMENT AND REQUIREMENTS
The Master Plan for the UTSA Downtown Campus is multifaceted and includes a growth strategy. While the growth is not the same as at the Main Campus, it is still significant. Growth planning comes with the responsibility of providing access in what is already a very complicated setting. Access provides opportunities for future students as well as opportunities for the campus administrators to market to a whole new demographic.

Over the projected phases of this Master Plan, the number of buildings on the campus more than doubles. Currently the parking provided is in the existing parking garage and in the exterior surface lot on the south side of the campus. Most of what is provided is not fully compliant but will not be too difficult to bring into compliance.

Currently the most egregious area of non-compliance is the accessible parking surrounding the Monterey Building on the west side of the campus. As buildings are added on that side of the campus, the parking will need to be brought into compliance. If there will be a delay in building on this side, the parking should be improved as its own project. More detail regarding phasing is provided in the Appendix.

Each new parking lot that is put in must have fully compliant accessible parking spaces serving it. Each of the accessible parking spaces that is provided must connect to an accessible route to the buildings they intend to serve. The key to mobility will be in having a strong sidewalk system that is fully accessible and then is maintained in an accessible condition. That part is very important to the overall success of this strategy. The Americans with Disabilities Act law (not the standards) requires all building owners to maintain their properties in an accessible condition, so sidewalk maintenance will be a vital part of the future success of this Master Plan.

PRIORITIES
The highest priority for access, as dictated by the Legislature through the ADA Law, is to get people to and into buildings. Therefore our initial focus is on the parking strategy and path of travel to accessible entrances of each building on campus. Since access does no good if people are unable to find it, part of the strategy is to ensure that students and faculty who need access know where the accessible routes are located. This is also vitally important to the success of a good access plan.

The second-highest priority is called “Access to Goods and Services” and deals with all of the interior paths of travel. That includes everything from elevator upgrades to hardware upgrades, and those changes will be worked into each phase. New buildings, of course, will have these access features built in from the beginning. Older buildings will need to have these elements upgraded for compliance.

The overall success of the “Access” part of this Master Plan is to ensure that each phase has the accessible elements embedded into the planning process instead of added as an afterthought. This does not mean, however, that the University can’t solve individual problems for individual people.

To accommodate a faculty member who has a heart condition and needs parking close to the building they teach in, a “reserved” space can be provided to meet that need and does not have to be identified as an accessible parking space or be compliant with the access standards. Individual agreements can be made to accommodate faculty/staff needs without jeopardizing the overall Campus Plan. What is important, however, is that the spaces that are not compliant with the access standards are not given the same signage or identification as those that are required to be fully compliant.

INTRAMURAL / RECREATIONAL SPORTS

INTRODUCTION
The University estimates that 20% of its student body will be taking classes at the Downtown Campus. Developing recreation facilities to accommodate the needs of these students will be a challenge. Many of these students also take classes at the Main Campus, which may mitigate the need to duplicate recreation facilities at the Downtown Campus.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES
Outdoor fields are not possible Downtown due to space constraints and will be accommodated at the Main Campus. Outdoor basketball and volleyball courts will provide opportunities for outdoor recreational activity at the Downtown Campus.

INDOOR FACILITIES
Developing indoor recreation facilities at the Downtown Campus should be considered as opportunities arise. Facilities that would likely be well utilized would include group exercise rooms, weight rooms, locker rooms, multipurpose gymnasium, and lounge space. The target sizes of these spaces would be 20% of the projected need in the space requirement report for a population of 35,000 students. Target assignable square footage for spaces is listed below. If this space is developed on the Downtown Campus, the space requirement for the Main Campus would be reduced by 23,000 sf, from 316,600 to 293,600 sf for a population of 35,000 students.

- Cardio Equipment 2,500 sf
- Weight Training 4,200 sf
- Group Exercise 2,300 sf
- Multipurpose Courts (Basketball, Volleyball, etc.) 12,000 sf
  or Two Basketball Courts
- Locker Rooms 2,000 sf