



Downtown Austin

Recommendations to
Improve City Services
March 1, 2007



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Current City Services
- Recommendations to Improve City Services
- Issues for the Downtown Master Plan
- Future Policy Decisions



Background

- Objective
 - Gather information for the City Manager regarding current City services within Downtown Austin in order to develop recommendations for improvement
- Information Gathered
 - Tasks performed
 - Responsible Unit
 - Frequency
 - Costs



Background

- Recommendations Grouped in the Following Categories:
 - Cleanliness
 - Pedestrian safety
 - Attractiveness
 - Code enforcement
 - Public Safety



Current City Services

- Table 2 Overview (Pages 8 - 9)
 - Entity/ department
 - Frequency
 - Annual cost



Current City Services

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Litter removal• Litter can emptying• Sidewalk repair• Alley cleaning and reconstruction• Graffiti removal and abatement• Graffiti investigation• Tree grate maintenance• Tree trimming• Bike rack replacement• Planter ball maintenance• Street and alley lighting• Street striping and marking• Street banner installation and removal | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manhole cover replacement• Street sign maintenance• Restaurant inspection• Grease barrel inspection• Event barricade enforcement• Street vendor permitting• Delivery time zone and parking enforcement• City code enforcement• Downtown area command• Downtown rangers• Downtown parks patrol |
|---|---|



Recommendations

- Table 1 Overview (Pages 6 - 7)
 - Lead department
 - Funding source
 - Time to completion
 - Estimated cost
 - Funded and unfunded



Recommendations

City Staff Task Force

- Create a City staff task force to implement these recommendations and research further enhancements
- Monitor 311 calls within the Downtown PID

Litter Abatement

- Install "Scoop the Poop" boxes
- Consider purchasing and installing ashtrays within the Downtown PID

Sidewalk Washing

- Provide a fact sheet to businesses for proper sidewalk washing
- Allow businesses the ability to use a water hose to wash sidewalks and alcoves
- Reconfigure East 6th Street irrigation system to provide water access to DAA
- Work with DAA to explore bird repellant solutions



Recommendations

Sidewalk Repair

- Repair sidewalks with DAA assistance for prioritizing
- Initiate an inventory of specialty sidewalk pavers that are maintained by the City
- Purchase the specialty pavers based on anticipated replacement need
- Develop a plan to replace the damaged specialty pavers

Alley Reconstruction

- Reconstruct five (5) Downtown alleys in 2007
- Plan to reconstruct two (2) Downtown alleys in 2008
- Plan to reconstruct two (2) Downtown alleys in 2007

Alley Cleanliness

- Investigate the feasibility of requiring businesses to label their grease traps barrels
- Explore implementing a City contract for a single-service provider for grease collection
- Ensure that Waste Management replaces odorous and dirty dumpsters
- Finish implementing 2006 Sixth Street stakeholder meeting recommendations



Recommendations

Tree Grates

- Test a filter material placed underneath tree grates
- Install the filter material if successfully tested
- Install replacement tree grates

Bike Racks

- Implement an annual replacement program

Traffic Signal Cabinets

- Work with DAA to research using cabinets as an artist canvas

News Racks

- Have an initial meeting with periodical representatives to explain the goal for the pilot project and discuss options for program administration and invite comments
- Subject to the results of the initial meeting, proceed to implement a pilot program

Monuments and Works of Art

- Propose a plan and operating budget for the Great Streets streetscape maintenance that incorporates maintain monuments and works of art



Recommendations

Code Enforcement

- Provide two (2) additional inspectors within the Right-of-Way Management Division
- Provide one (1) additional sanitarian dedicated to Downtown restaurant inspections

Awnings

- Conduct a study for other enforcement means for having owners replace damaged awnings

ATMs

- Research whether the City can regulate ATMs



Recommendations

Completed Since October 2006

- Sidewalk Cleaning
 - Purchase a pressure washing machine with water recapture feature
- Litter Abatement
 - Purchase 12 ashtrays to be installed on East 6th Street
- Graffiti Removal
 - Assigned a full-time detective to work specifically on graffiti crimes
- Street Signs
 - Completely resigned Downtown area
- Littlefield Clock
 - Contacted owner to request repair and maintenance



Recommendations

Downtown Master Plan Consideration

- Sixth Street Urban Entertainment District Task Force
- ATM Regulation
- Storefront and Signage Design Guidelines
- Widening Sidewalks



Recommendations

Future Policy Decisions

- Installing Parking Meters on East 6th Street
- Barricade Installation and Removal Policy
- Street Vendor Fees
- Delivery Zones



Summary

- City Staff Task Force to Meet Regularly
 - Implement recommendations
 - Continuous review of operations issues
 - Research further enhancements to services
 - Progress reports provided to City Manager
- Refer Certain Items to the Downtown Master Plan
- Present Information for Certain Items for Future Policy Discussion