

Proposed Modifications to the
Comprehensive Plan Scope Framework by
Council Member Laura Morrison

AUSTIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SCOPE FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Communities change, as do families, businesses, institutions and natural systems. Retaining conditions just as they are now is no more feasible than turning back the clock to a prior era. While change itself may be inevitable, the direction and rate of change and the kind of places which change produces, are not. The act of planning, in essence, reflects a decision not to accept "the inevitable," but rather to influence and guide change to produce a future that gives us what we want; the kind of community we want to live in.

The essential role of the Comprehensive Plan is to be a guide for the management of change, through which we anticipate and solve problems, and seize opportunities to make our community better. The Comprehensive Plan also serves as a bridge through time, spanning different City Councils and administrations. It is both far-sighted and continually attended to.

The process of developing the Comprehensive Plan is an opportunity for Austin to address its difficult questions all at once, in a setting that allows the community to understand constraints, consequences, and trade-offs as it makes decisions balancing public costs and public goods.

This Scope Framework outlines a process for developing a new Comprehensive Plan. The Austin City Charter specifies that, once adopted, all land development regulations, public improvements (including bond elections that finance capital improvement projects), and public facilities and utilities shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Charter also requires annual monitoring of the Comprehensive Plan for effectiveness, with updates as needed. For example, the current Comprehensive Plan is regularly modified following hearings and actions by the Planning Commission and City Council regarding Neighborhood Plans (NP) and NP amendments. Fuller evaluations and appraisals must be prepared and submitted to City Council every five years. This creates a framework for coping with changes in the community, unforeseen events, and unintended consequences.

Summary of Comments on AUSTIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Page: 1

Author: Levinski/R Subject: Text Box Date: 7/22/2009 7:07:35 PM
Proposed Modifications to the Comprehensive Plan Scope Framework by Council Member
Laura Morrison

ATTACHED ARE ONLY
PAGES WHERE COUNCIL
MEMBER MORRISON
PROPOSES MODIFICATIONS.

HOPE THIS HELPS.

THANKS,

BOBBY

Cross-out in RED

- **Plan Elements:** How will the Plan Framework be applied through strategies and actions identified in the different plan elements? How will the elements be integrated to achieve overarching goals such as sustainability?
- **Implementation:** What are the specific priorities, actions, and responsibilities for Comprehensive Plan implementation? How do we build capacity and leverage resources through partnerships? How will progress in implementing the Plan be monitored and measured?
- **Neighborhood Plans:**
How will Neighborhood Plans coexist with the new Comprehensive Plan? What will the status of Neighborhood Plans be after the Comprehensive Plan is adopted? How will older plans be updated? How will conflict between the Comprehensive Plan and existing Neighborhood Plans be addressed? How will Neighborhood Plans be utilized in scenario testing?

For each of the three phases, an overview of what will be accomplished in the major tasks and an outline of individual subtasks are presented below. Overarching themes that will distinguish the overall process include:

- **Community Engagement:** The planning process will include multiple ways of engaging the public, designed to achieve three broad goals. First, the process should reach beyond those who have a history of active participation in planning to engage a broad range of constituencies within the community. This will require new tools and venues for soliciting input, as well as clear and accessible communication and education (including the use of tools such as case studies of what works in the U.S. and internationally) throughout the process, so that all members of the public are able to make informed choices. Second, the process should seek to narrow areas of disagreement and to define "common ground" as the basis for moving forward. Third, the process should go beyond mere "participation" to encourage citizens and civic leaders to "take ownership" of the plan through active support and involvement in implementation (see capacity-building for implementation below).

A further aspect of community engagement will be the review of existing Austin plans. These plans represent an enormous amount of time spent by the Austin community and are valuable attempts at grappling with the issues that the Comprehensive Plan will address.

The scope framework identifies four series of "community forums" held in different locations within the City at key junctures in the planning process. These forums will be designed as interactive events in which a variety of means will be used to share information and ideas and receive public input. The forums will help educate participants on the inter-relatedness of the various charter elements including impacts of decisions on other elements. Other means of outreach will be used to reach those who do not normally attend public meetings, such as community surveys, focus groups, meetings in different settings, an interactive project website, canvassing, speaker's bureau, etc. (The specific techniques to be used will be defined in Phase I of the process.)

The Vision developed in Phase II represents a critical benchmark in the planning process, reflecting areas of common ground on which most of the community can agree and providing the framework for developing detailed strategies and actions in the Comprehensive Plan itself. Planning Commission and City Council workshops will be held at key junctures in the process to provide direction and make decisions on unresolved issues.

- **Sustainability:** ~~City Council has identified sustainability and climate change as overarching issues to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.~~ Towards this end, the planning process will define what sustainability means specifically for Austin and the aspirations of its citizens for a sustainable future environment, economy, and community. This focus on sustainability will span community engagement, analysis of existing conditions and trends, carrying capacity of the natural environment and existing infrastructure, scenario formulation and evaluation, development of plan strategies and actions, and identification of indicators to measure implementation progress.
- **Implementation:** The planning process will include a strategic focus on implementation, culminating in formulation of a realistic action agenda and benchmarks to measure progress in achieving the vision. To support this key outcome, the process will engage community stakeholders in the public, private, nonprofit, and institutional sectors first to help frame the issues within realistic fiscal and regulatory constraints, then to obtain "buy-in" on proposed solutions, and ultimately to leverage and mobilize resources for action through partnerships.

REPLACE SENTENCE WITH:

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE
 CHANGE ARE OVERARCHING
 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN
 THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- o Project branding (process)
- o Speakers "bureau"
- o Goals and measures for participation and to ensure that the full breadth of stakeholders in the planning area are given a real opportunity to participate
- o Process for reaching decisions where there is no clear common ground.
- Inventory / data book contents and structure
- Scenario development / testing methodology
- Utilization, review, and incorporation of neighborhood / other plans

1.1.5 Work Program Development

Task 1.2: Beginning the Process

Overview

Over a second approximately 4-week period briefings will be provided on the comprehensive planning process to various audiences. In addition, the CPCAC will be formally organized and given an orientation as to their role and responsibilities. Plans, policies, GIS information, and other data will be assembled and analyzed for use in the planning process. In addition, a series of small group interviews will be held with representative stakeholder groups and community opinion leaders to provide an initial scan of key issues.

- 1.2.1 Public Open House
 - Key Issues
 - Desired outcomes
 - Ideas for project branding
 - Results of review of existing plans
- 1.2.2 Orientation Briefings
 - ~~City Council~~
 - ~~Planning Commission~~
 - Media
 - Identifying other jurisdictions and institutions and inviting their involvement and support
- 1.2.3 CPCAC Organization
- 1.2.4 Past Plans Array / Review
- 1.2.5 Information Array / Review
- 1.2.6 Stakeholder / Opinion Leader Interviews
- 1.2.7 Community Tour
- 1.2.8 Preliminary Issue Identification (including possible additional plan elements)
- 1.2.9 Project Branding (theme and logo)

Draft - 7/15/09 -

For the most recent copy of this document, see <http://www.cityofaustin.org/compplan>

Page: 8

Author: LevinskiR Subject: Replacement Text Date: 7/22/2009 6:48:12 PM
Planning Commission

Author: LevinskiR Subject: Replacement Text Date: 7/22/2009 6:48:53 PM
City Council
- Adopt Participation Plan after Planning Commission Recommendation

REPLACE BULLETS WITH:

- PLANNING COMMISSION
- Recommend Participation Plan to the CC
- CITY COUNCIL

- ADOPT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AFTER PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATION

III. THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Author: LevinskiR Subject: Cross-Out Date: 7/22/2009 6:49:24 PM

Task 3.1 Developing the Plan Document

Overview

The Draft Comprehensive Plan will define specific strategies and actions to implement the Plan Framework. While the Plan will address the elements required by Austin's City Charter, interrelationships between the different elements related to the key themes and principles defined in the Plan Framework will be emphasized. In addition to the elements required by the Charter, additional elements may be prepared based on community input and the results of the planning process. In addition, the Implementation Component of the Plan will include:

- Guidance for use of the Comprehensive Plan in governance and decision-making, including protocols for plan revisions and updating
- A framework of modifications to development regulations necessary for plan consistency
- Other implementation actions, such as capital improvements and partnerships
- An "action agenda" specifying timeframes and responsibilities for carrying all of the actions mandated in the comprehensive plan
- A monitoring system, including indicators for use in measuring progress in implementing the plan

The Draft Plan will be submitted for review by the public and various boards and commissions, followed by initiation of the formal public hearing and adoption process.

3.1.1 Draft Plan Document

- Introduction / Purpose
- Vision
- Plan Framework / Strategic Directions
- Plan Interrelationships
- Plan Elements
 - Future Land Use (land use / development strategies and actions; future land use concept; growth management concept)
 - Housing and Neighborhoods
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental Resources
 - Transportation (roadway, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle networks; multi-modal system; relationship to land use)

Draft - 7/15/09 -

For the most recent copy of this document, see <http://www.cityofaustin.org/compplan>

6s
CROSS-OUT IN RED