

AGENDA



Thursday, March 10, 2011

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 41**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution to endorse the Imagine Austin Plan Framework and forward the Plan Framework and the Imagine Austin Preferred Growth Scenario to working groups for development of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

For More Information: Mark Walters, 974-7695; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Planning Commission.

Prior Council Action: August 26, 2010 - Council endorsed the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement. February 17, 2011 - Council set a public hearing for March 10, 2011.

In October 2009, the Planning and Development Review Department and the consultant team lead by Wallace, Roberts, and Todd (WRT) began the process of collecting public input for the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Through a series of interviews which included three community forums, public meetings, and a variety of surveys, the Austin community was asked what issues were important to them and what type of place Austin should become in the future. This public input was reviewed and synthesized by staff, WRT, and the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force (CPCATF).

This process of review and distillation has created three major work products that will form the basis of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, the Imagine Austin Vision Statement, Preferred Growth Scenario, and Plan Framework

The first product was the Imagine Austin Vision Statement which spells out the type of community Austin will be as it reaches its bicentennial in 2039. The Vision was endorsed by the City Council on August 26, 2010.

The Preferred Growth Scenario reflects public input received in two series of community forums and associated public outreach activities. In Community Forum #2 and follow-up meetings, residents worked from resource materials to create over 60 maps depicting the development patterns and transportation network they felt would best accommodate projected future growth. In Community Forum #3 and accompanying surveys (paper and online), residents were asked to compare five growth scenarios (a projected trend and four alternatives constructed from the Community Forum #2 maps) and provide input on a preferred growth direction for the future.

The Plan Framework is organized into seven “building blocks” that incorporate elements (subject areas) to be included in the Comprehensive Plan as required by the City Charter. It also includes other elements that were added based on public input. The Plan Framework which is based on public input combined with an analysis of current and projected conditions and trends that are shaping Austin’s future. The Framework represents the “bridge” between the Vision Statement and the full Comprehensive Plan which will include more detailed strategies and an action component specifying the steps needed to implement the plan.