

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

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| Austin City Council | Item ID | 7483 | Agenda Number | 113. |
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| Meeting Date: | 7/28/2011 | Department: | Planning and Development Review |
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Downtown Austin Plan. The planning area includes properties bounded approximately by Interstate 35 to the east, the west side of Lamar Blvd. to the west, Lady Bird Lake to the south and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to the north. (Suggested date and time: August 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

For More Information: Jim Robertson, 974-3564; Sylvia Arzola, 974-6448

Boards and
Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

Council Resolution 20051215-056 directed the initiation of the Downtown Austin Plan ("DAP"). The Resolution stated that the DAP should include recommendations related to: development standards modernization; infrastructure funding; mobility; utilization of government-owned land; and affordable housing, and prescribed the project boundaries.

The planning process began with a nine-month "diagnostic" phase to assess existing conditions, analyze opportunities and constraints, identify priorities and craft the work program for subsequent phases of the project. The resulting "Downtown Austin Plan Issues and Opportunities" report was presented to the community and City Council in February 2008.

Through subsequent actions the City Council acted to advance specific elements of the DAP, including a Downtown Transportation Framework Plan and an Urban Rail Study, a Downtown Affordable Housing Strategy, a Downtown Density Bonus Program and a Downtown Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

The draft DAP is the result of a three-year dialogue with the general public and the Downtown community and stakeholders. It has involved six Town Hall meetings and scores of smaller meetings and workshops, soliciting input on a wide range of issues and geographic subareas. The DAP process has provided the opportunity for the community to refine its vision for Downtown and to formulate an action plan that addresses the challenges facing Downtown, while building on the momentum of the past ten years.

The draft Plan establishes action priorities for the next 10 years to ensure Downtown's long-term economic and social vibrancy and sustainability. It recommends more than 100 steps to make Downtown livable, walkable, connected, inclusive, affordable, culturally alive and economically strong.

Recommendations of the plan are organized into seven subject areas that relate closely to those City departments, divisions and programs that will undertake their implementation. These elements are:

- Historic Preservation
- Activities and Uses
- Density and Design
- The Public Realm
- Transportation and Parking
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Leadership and Implementation

The DAP was finalized as a draft document in mid-2010 and was presented to the City Council at a worksession in November 2010. Presentations to various city boards and commissions began in January 2011 and were completed in late-April 2011.