



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Gregory I. Guernsey, AICP, Director *AA*
Planning and Development Review Department

DATE: May 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Draft Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan- Revised Staff Recommendation

On April 26, 2012, a memo was distributed with a preliminary staff recommendation. Attached for your review is a revised version of that staff recommendation.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends forwarding the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Planning Commission to the City Council with the following changes:

Formatting, Corrections, and Copyediting, — Staff will continue preparing the draft plan by identifying typographical errors, correcting any data errors, ensuring the accuracy of cross-references, and correcting any grammar errors (draft attached).

State Highway 45 SW (SH-45 SW) — On the Growth Concept Map, include the alignment of SH-45 SW linking the Mopac Expressway to Interstate 35 as a dotted line. Include the following text into the plan:

SH-45 Southwest: A source of continuing discussion

SH-45 Southwest (a.k.a., Manchaca Expressway) has been and continues to be a subject of great interest and dialogue in Austin, both with respect to mobility issues and concerns about potential impacts to sensitive environmental resources. The segment of the project from South Loop 1 to FM1626 will soon be evaluated through National Environmental Policy Act, which by federal law requires an examination of all alternatives, including not constructing the project (“no-build”). Including SH-45 Southwest on this map is not intended to represent a position on which alternative is selected. If an alternative other than no-build is selected, this plan recommends designing the roadway to be attractive and to meet the City’s objectives of non-degradation of water quality in the Barton Springs Zone of the Edwards Aquifer. In particular, if the project is built, it should be a roadway design identified as the locally preferred alternative in the results of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority Environmental Assessment/ Environmental Impact Statement, should avoid impacts to critical environmental features, and should incorporate advanced stormwater quality and spill containment controls to achieve a nondegradation level of environmental protection.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Garner Stoll, Assistant Director, Planning and Development Review Department

Imagine Austin draft plan

Corrections to be incorporated after 1st reading

Improvements to readability/usability

- Change font
- Re-arrange best practices included in chapter 4
- Improve graphic quality of legends
- Improve graphic quality of map shown on Dove Springs spread (p.82-83)
- Introduce icons for Vision themes
- Re-arrange sidebars included in priority programs
- Include horizontal lines in table of building blocks and plan elements (p.87)
- Replace grey boxes with photos
- * Shift introduction to Action Matrix to its own page

Corrections

- Appendix D: reflect PC's changes to Centers in Environmentally Sensitive Areas; include entry for neighborhood center at Lamar & Rundberg
- Growth concept map series: reflect changes to Centers in Environmentally Sensitive Areas in maps 4.1 - 4.4
- Open space corrections
- Figure 4.6: Combined Future Land Use Map: update to include St. John/Coronado Hills FLUM
- p59, last bullet: Correct "19% of Travis County residents who needed to see a doctor could not at some point because of cost." The figure should be 17%.
- Figure 4.11 (in list of maps and figures and on p.150): change title to "Walkable Access to Parks"
- * p102: 2nd paragraph, change "pages 96-98" to "pages 96-99".
- * p103: Include "Activity" before "Centers and Corridors" in the title of this spread
- p174, Manage water resources, related city initiatives: Change "Austin Water Utility Master Plan" to "Austin Water Utility strategic infrastructure plan"
- p179, Green infrastructure program, related city initiatives: Include "Austin Climate Protection Plan"; ACPP is
- * referenced in an action related to this program already.

Edits

- p.41, What Does It Mean?, first bullet, third sentence: change "has been slow" to "have been slow"
- p.83, "A Community Speaks," 1st bullet: Delete first colon and make "In" lower-case.
- Throughout: Capitalize "Land Development Code".
- p. 192, "Segregation in Austin," 3rd sentence: Include "ran" between "blacks and Hispanics" and "businesses, churches, and schools..."
- * p.194, 1st set of bullet: words after the first should be lower case.
- p200, 4th paragraph: replace "principles" with "policies."

- * Added since June Comprehensive Planning & Transportation Committee meeting